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GABRIEL PIERNÉ

THE CHILDREN AT BETHLEHEM

A MYSTERY IN TWO PARTS

POEM BY GABRIEL NIGOND

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY
M. LOUISE BAUM

CHILDREN'S CHORUS PARTS CONDENSED

NEW YORK : G. SCHIRMER

MUSIC
M
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.P6[illegible]
1[illegible]
1908
Cop. 2

Music Lib
XM
Margaret Wentworth
2-24-49

The Children at Bethlehem

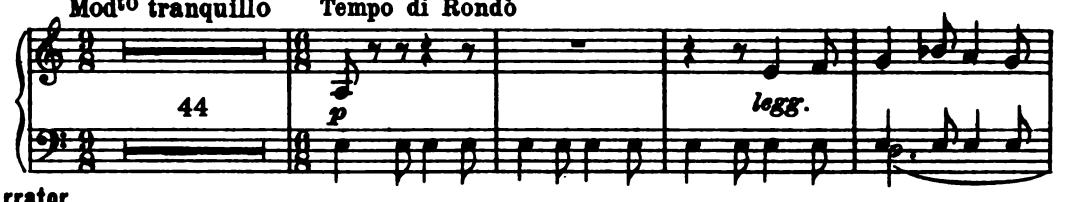
Children's Chorus Parts

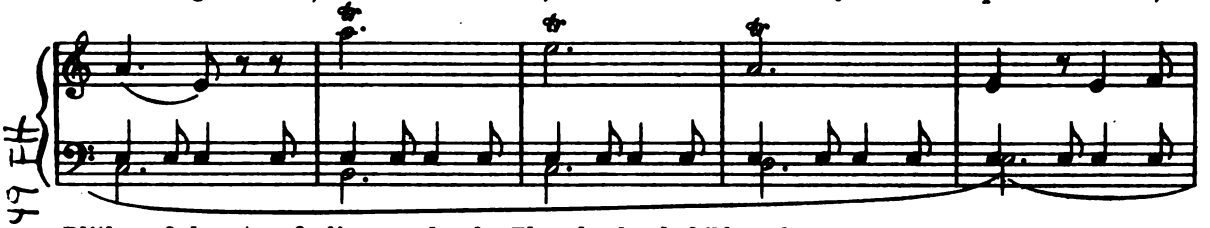
Part I

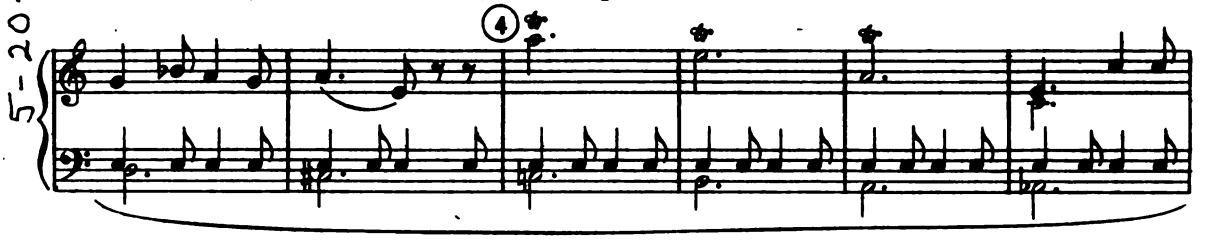
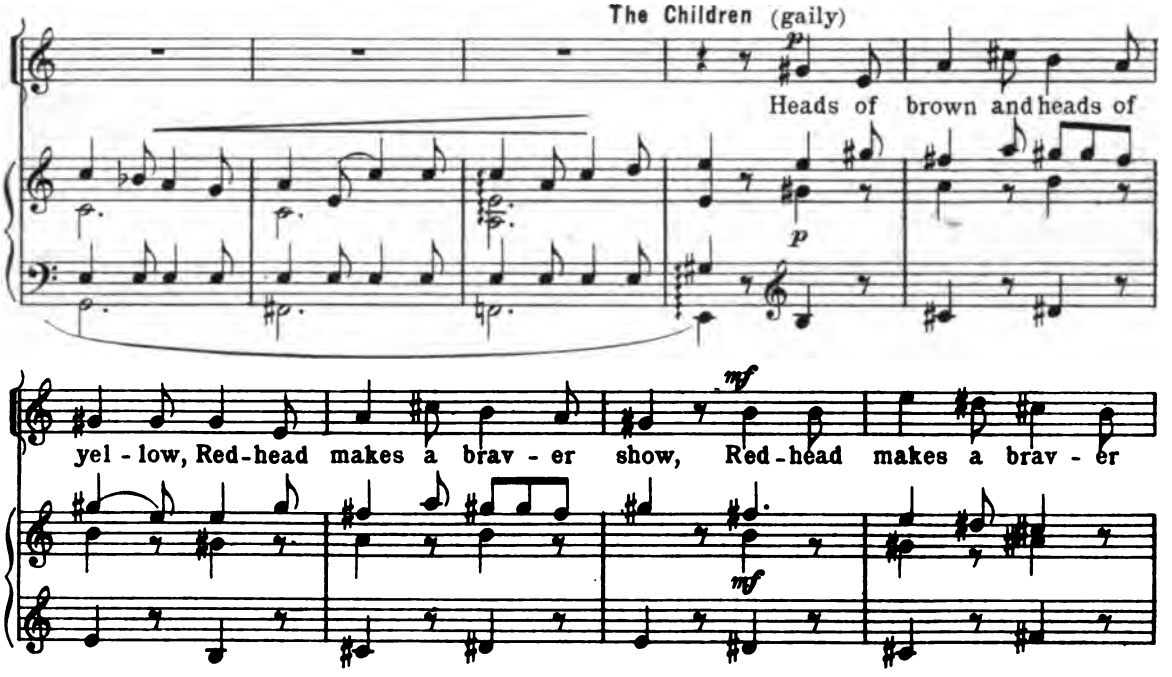
The Plain

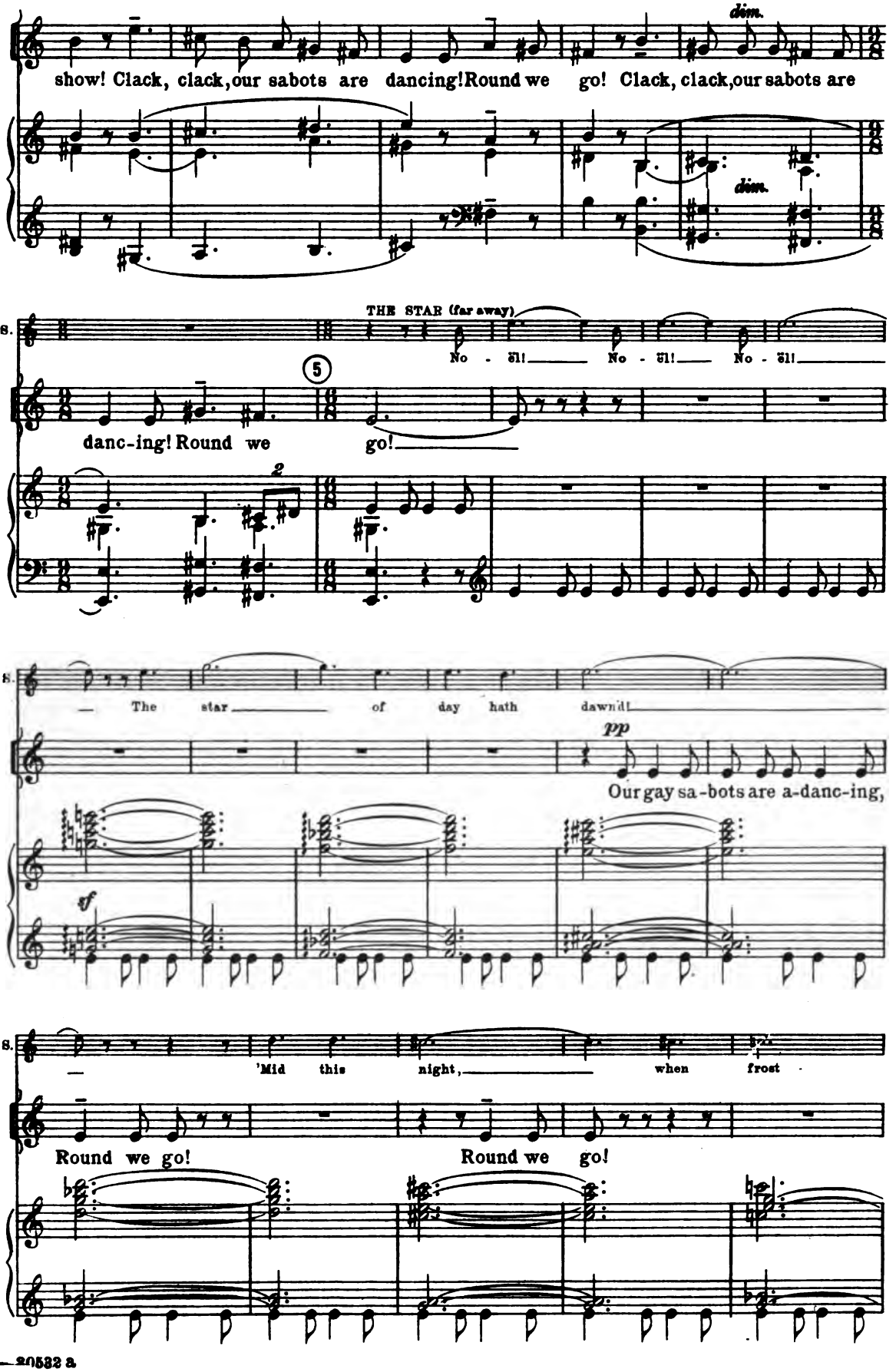
The pasture-lands surrounding a village. In the winter twilight a group of shepherd children are watching their flocks

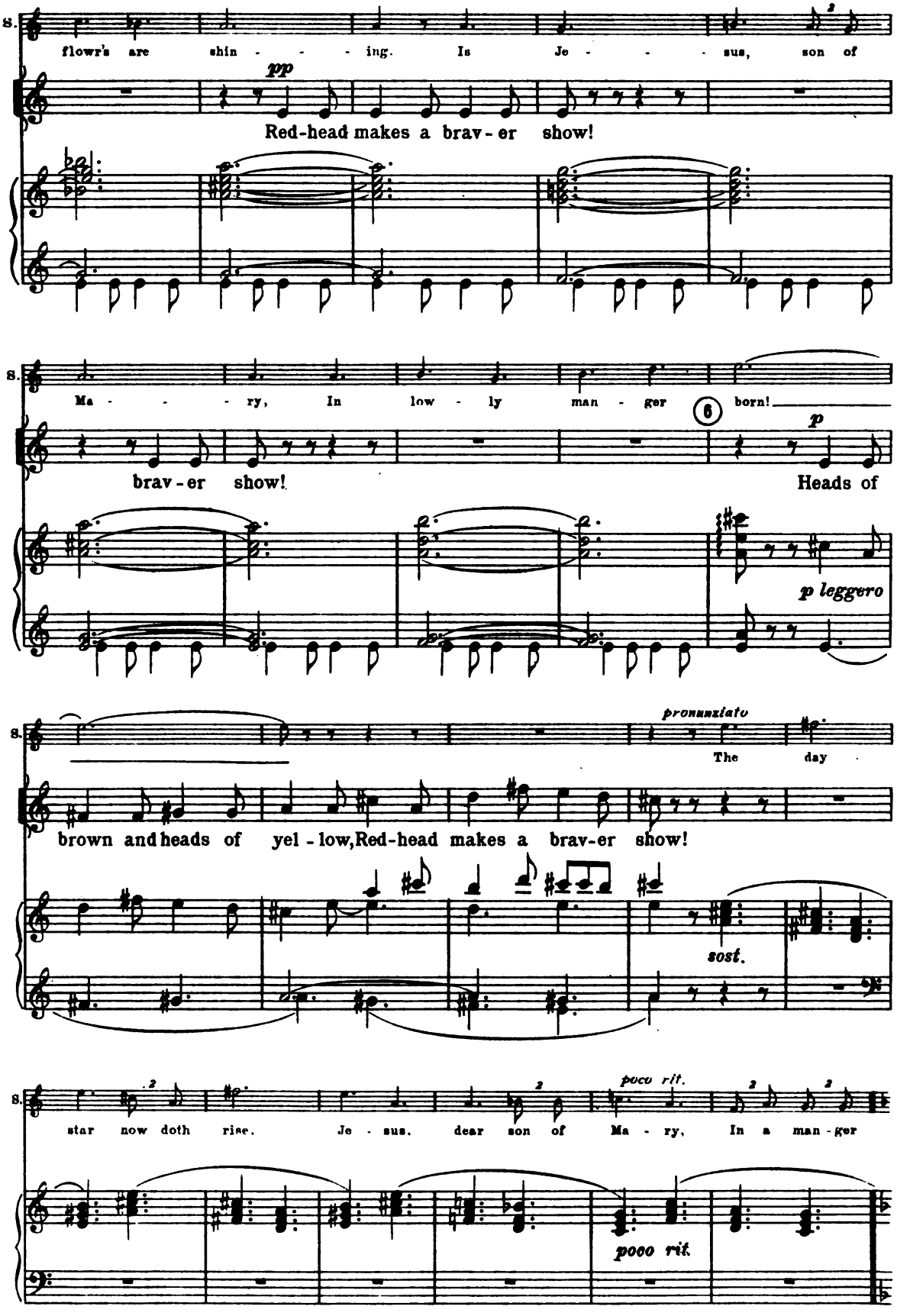
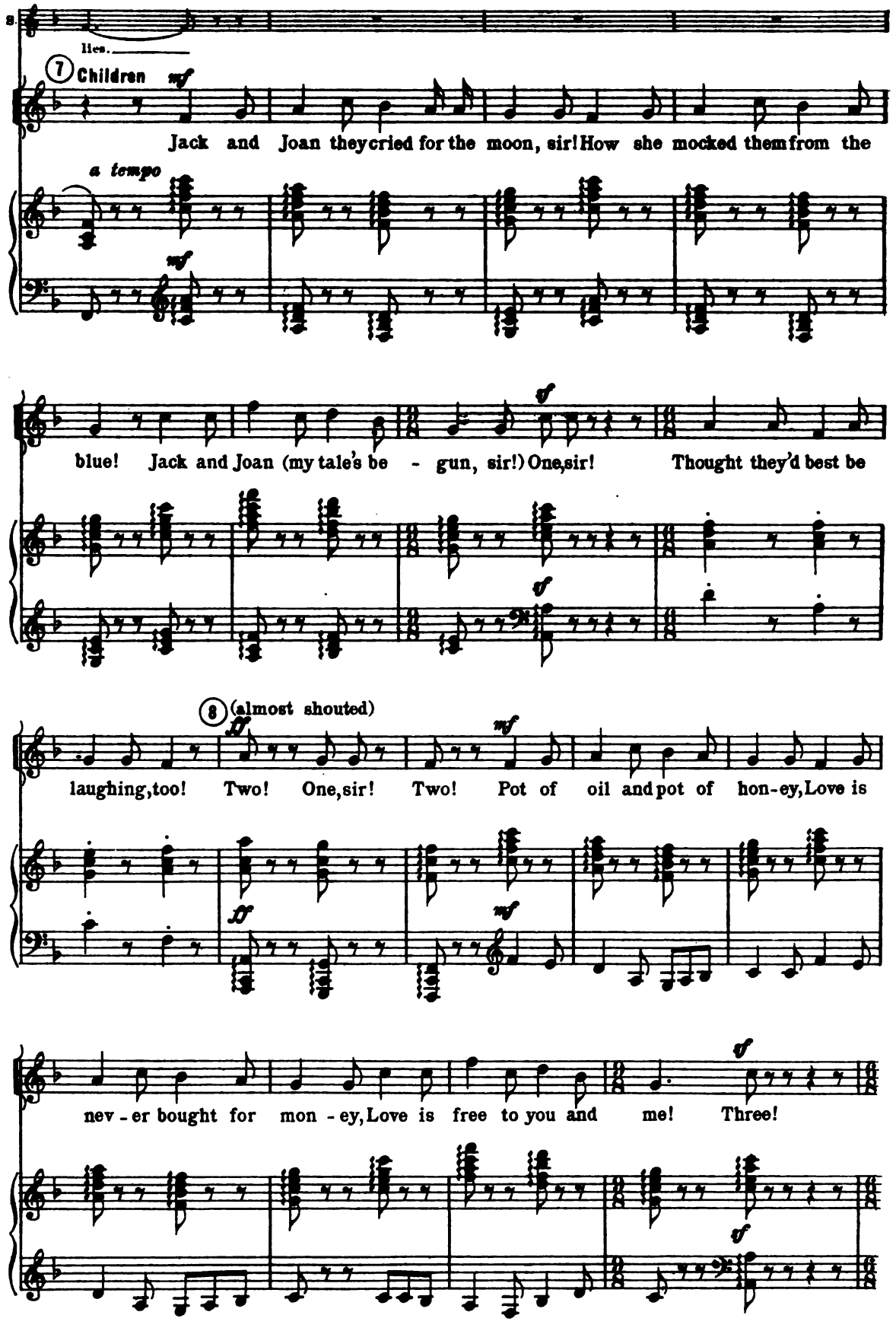
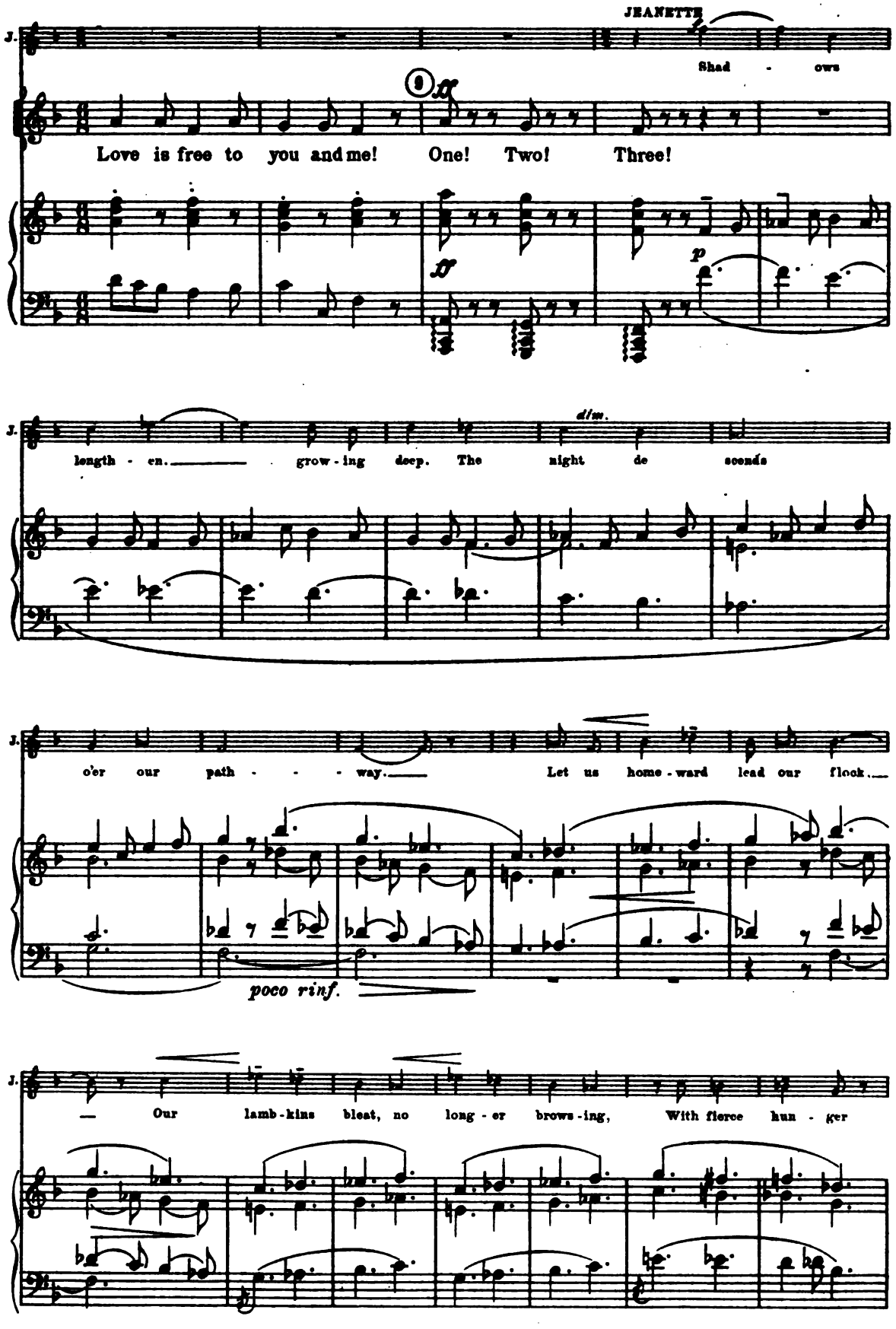
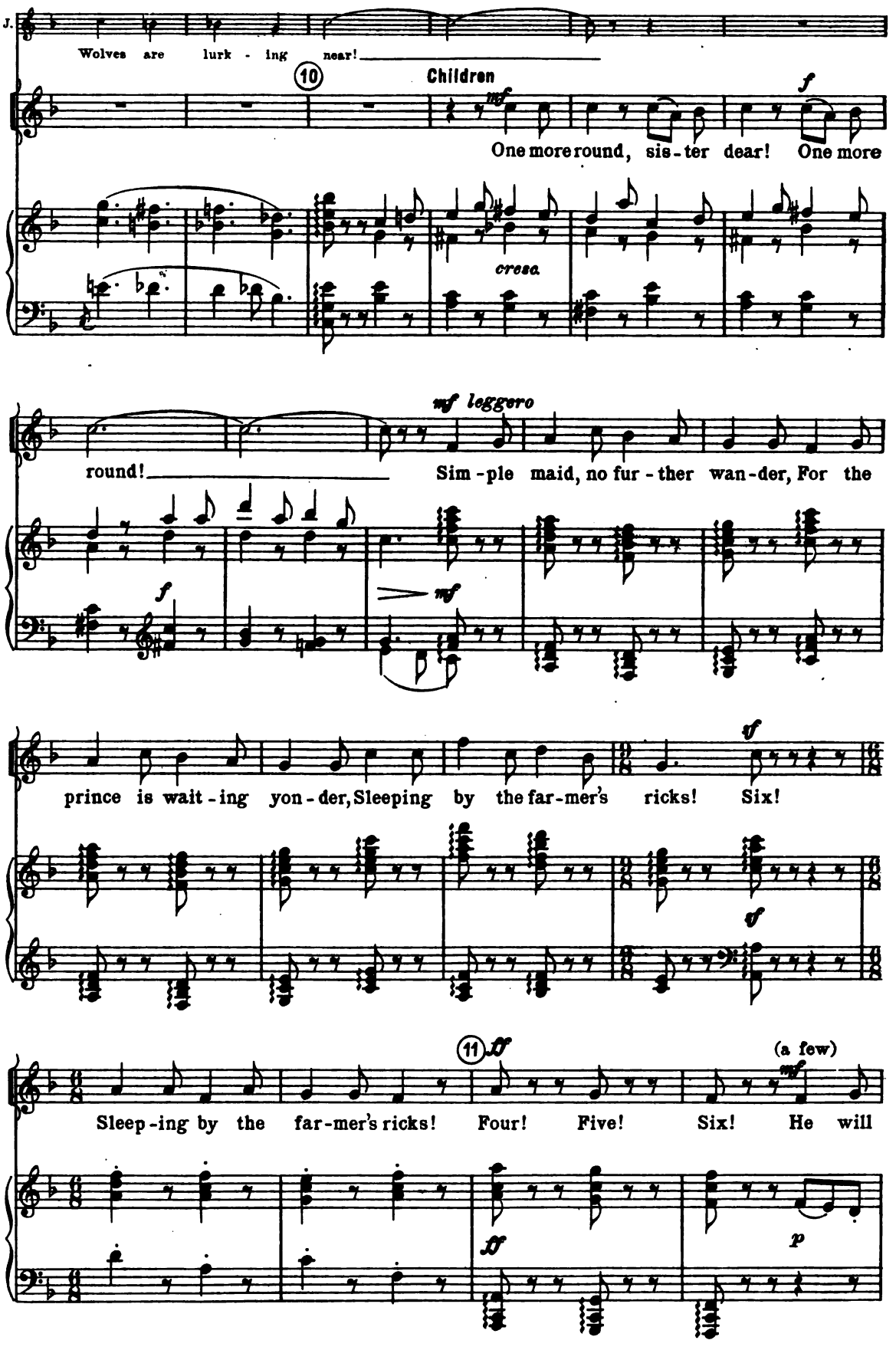
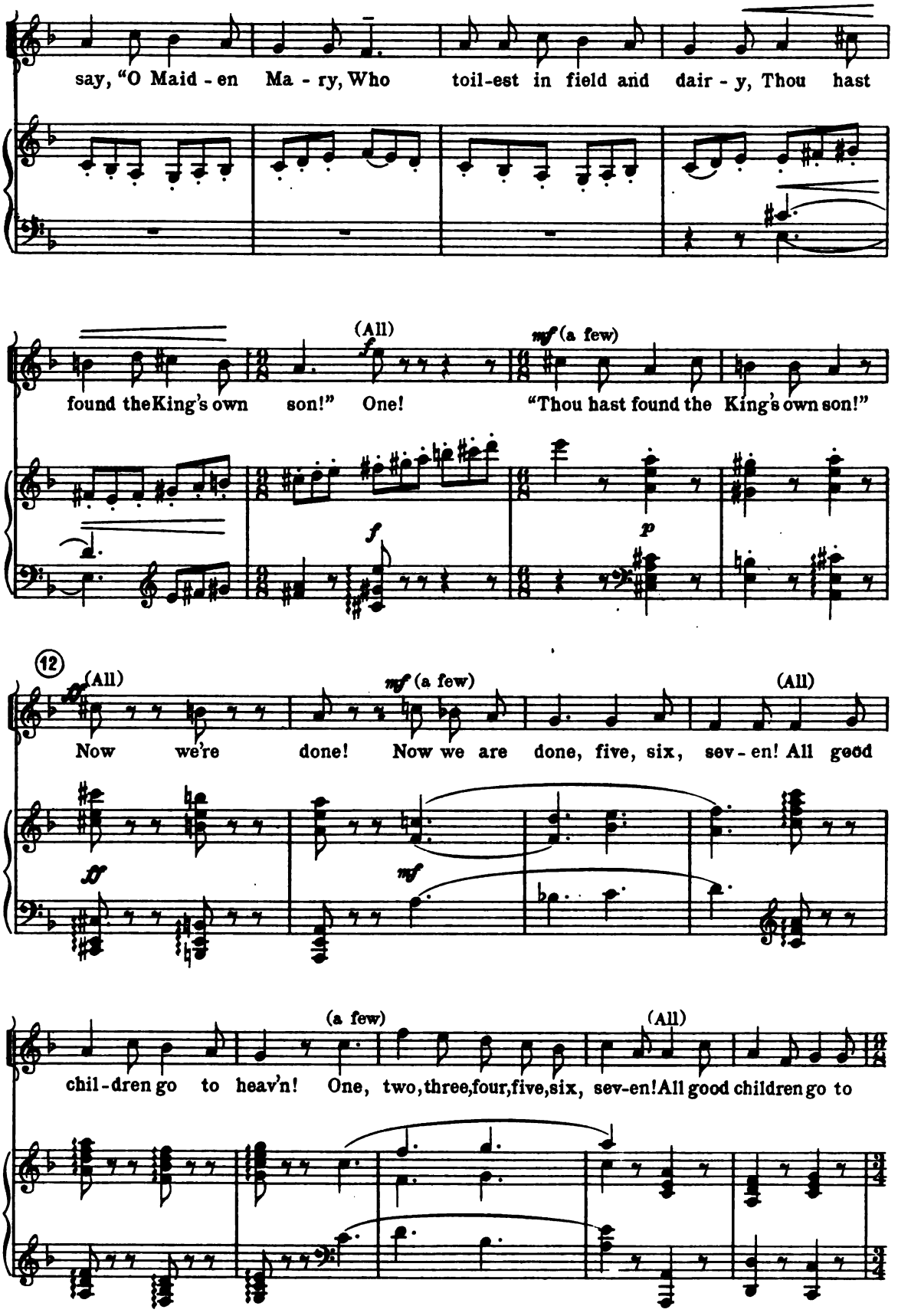
Allegretto giocoso (♩.= 116) Gabriel Pierné

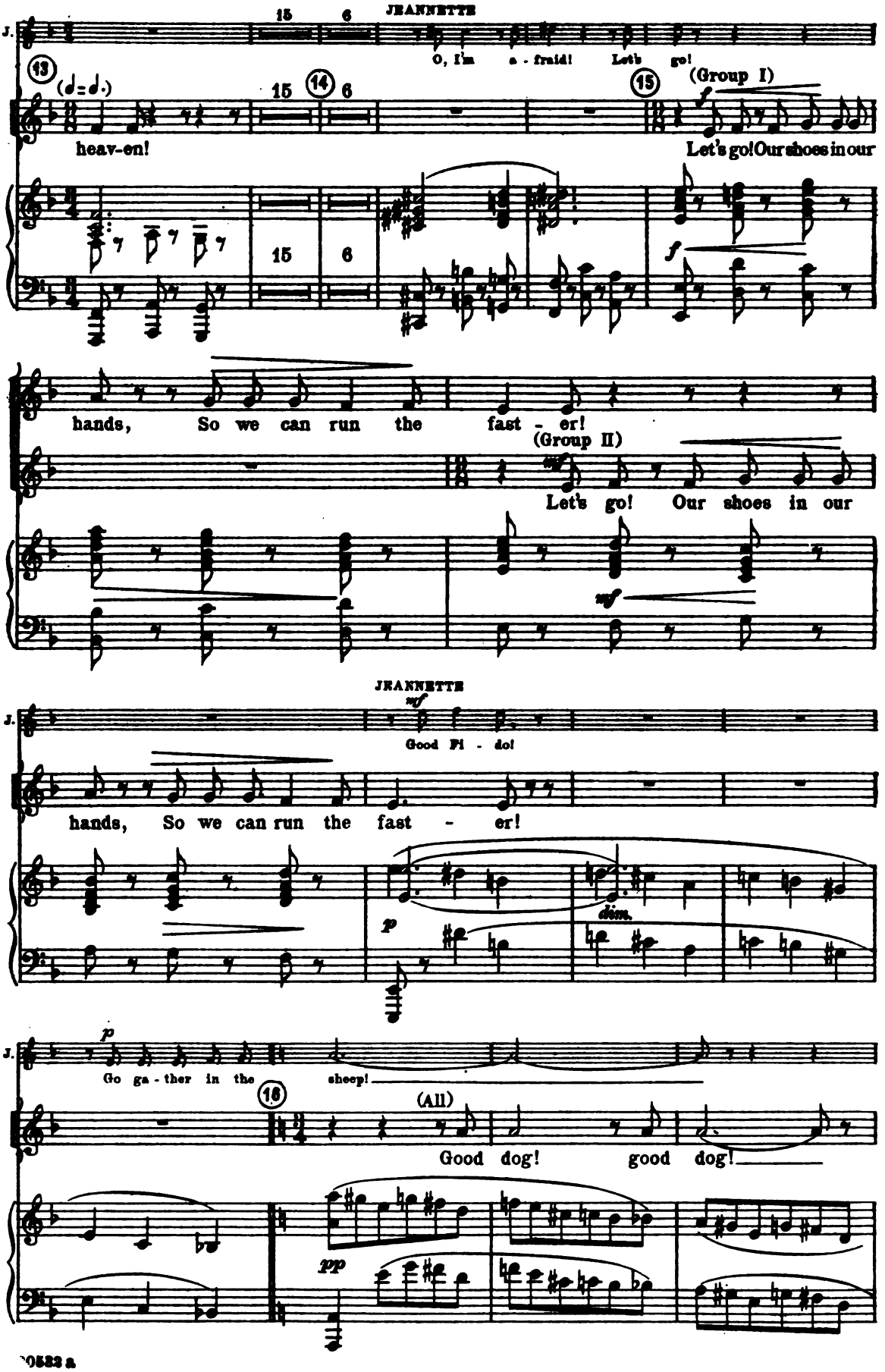
Mod^to tranquillo Tempo di Rondò

The Narrator
But braving the cold, tho' it bite so sore, And loath to leave the year's last pasture-land,

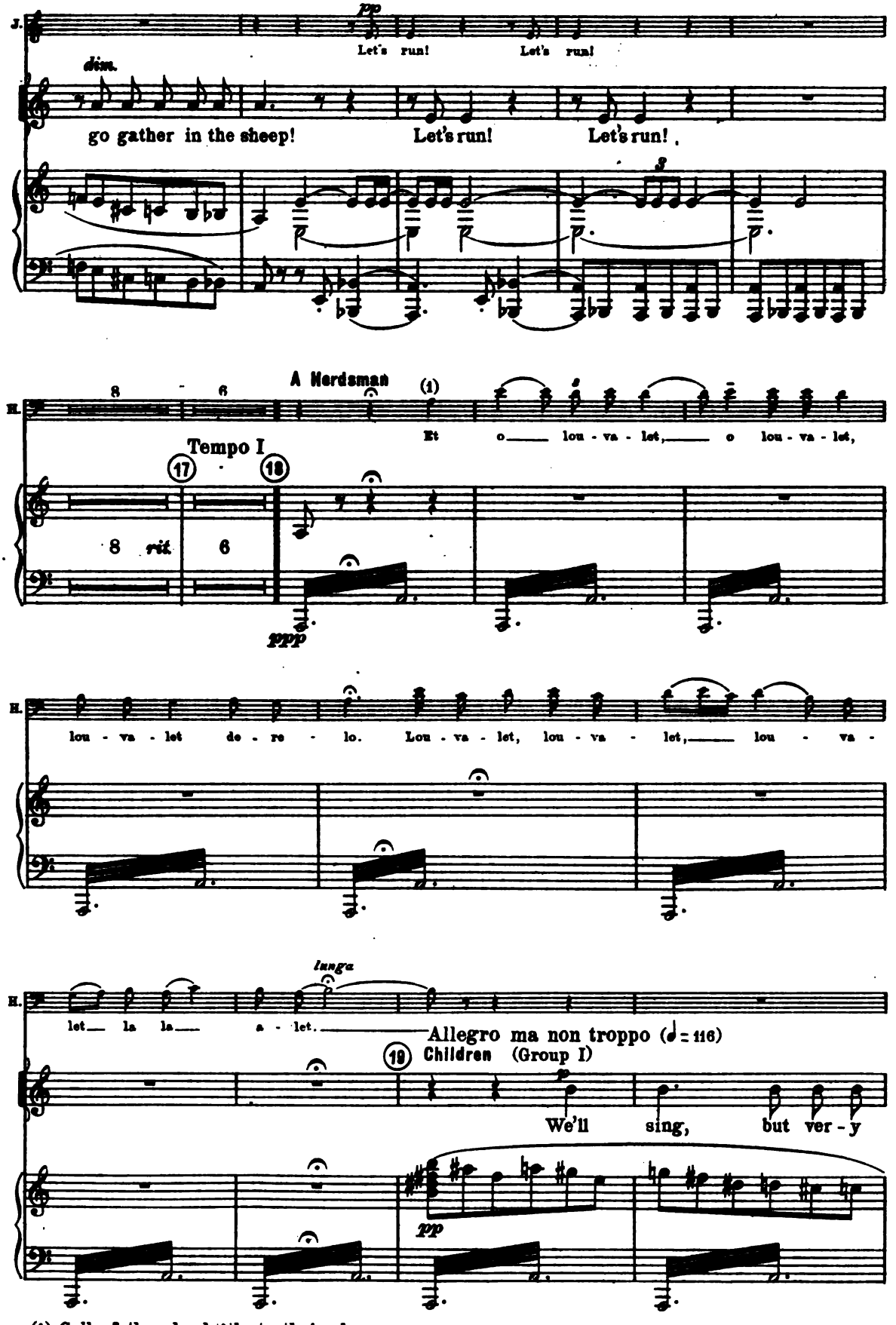


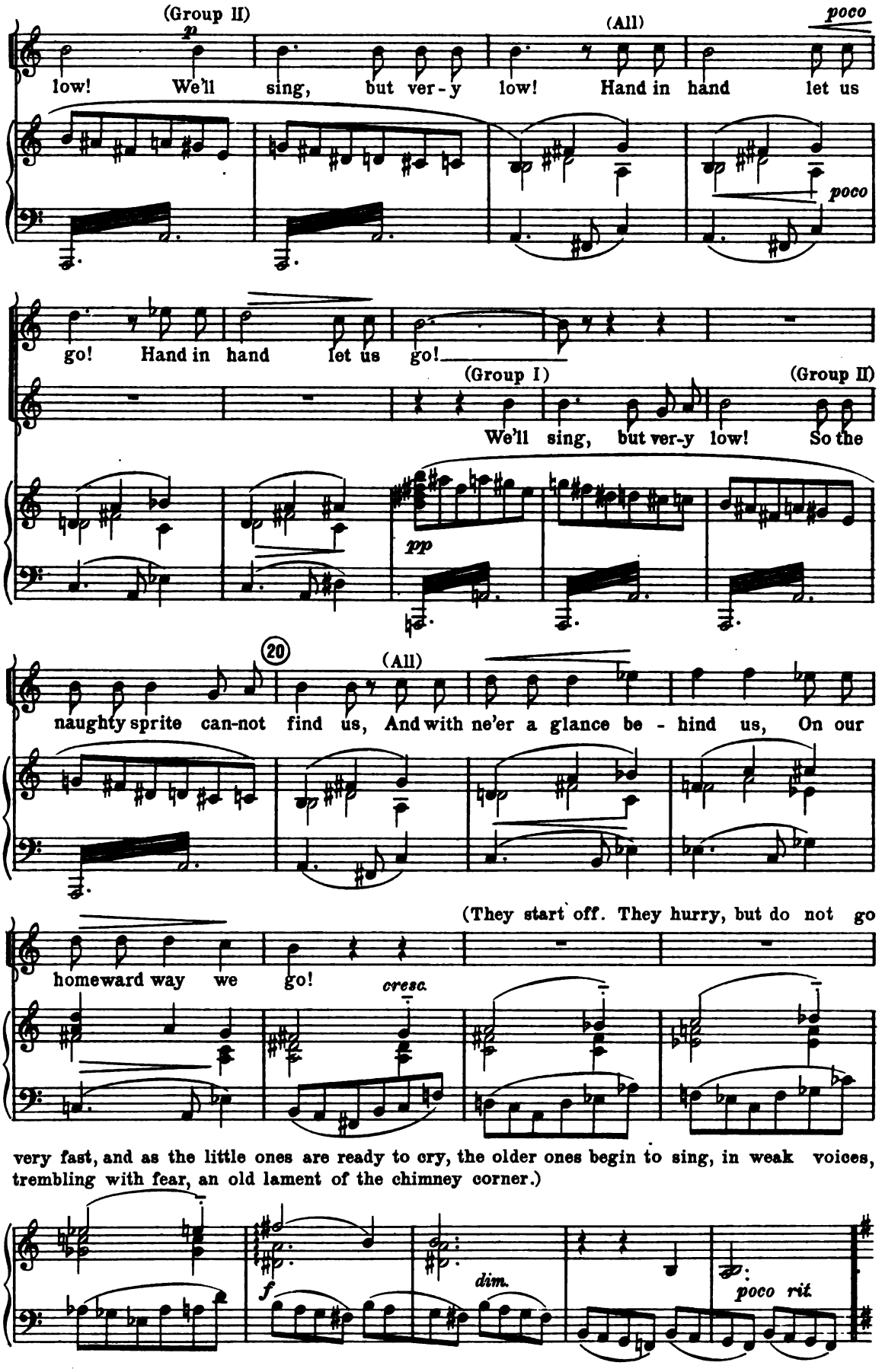
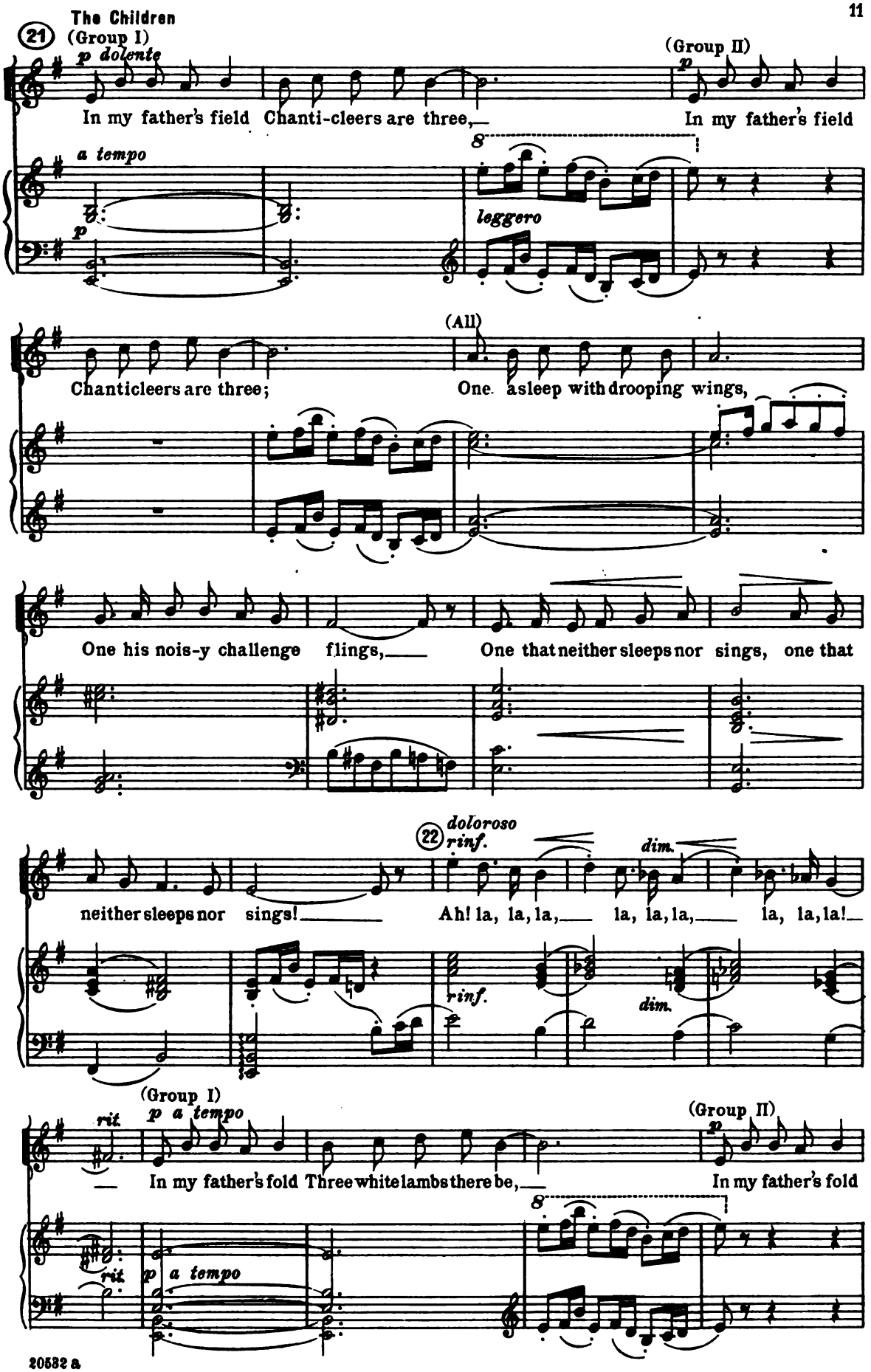
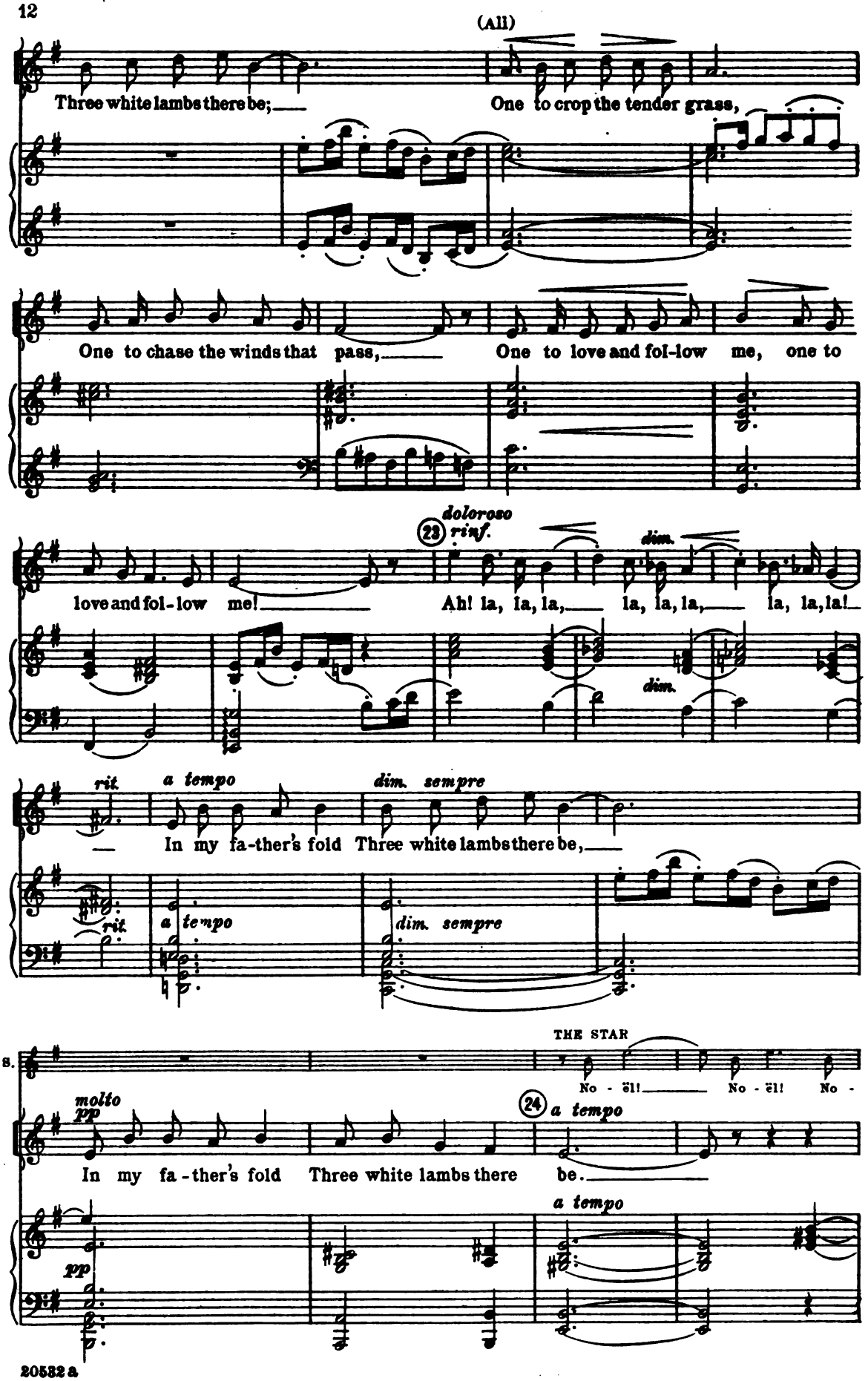
Blithe of heart, a frolicsome band, The shepherd children dance once more.

5-20-49 EH

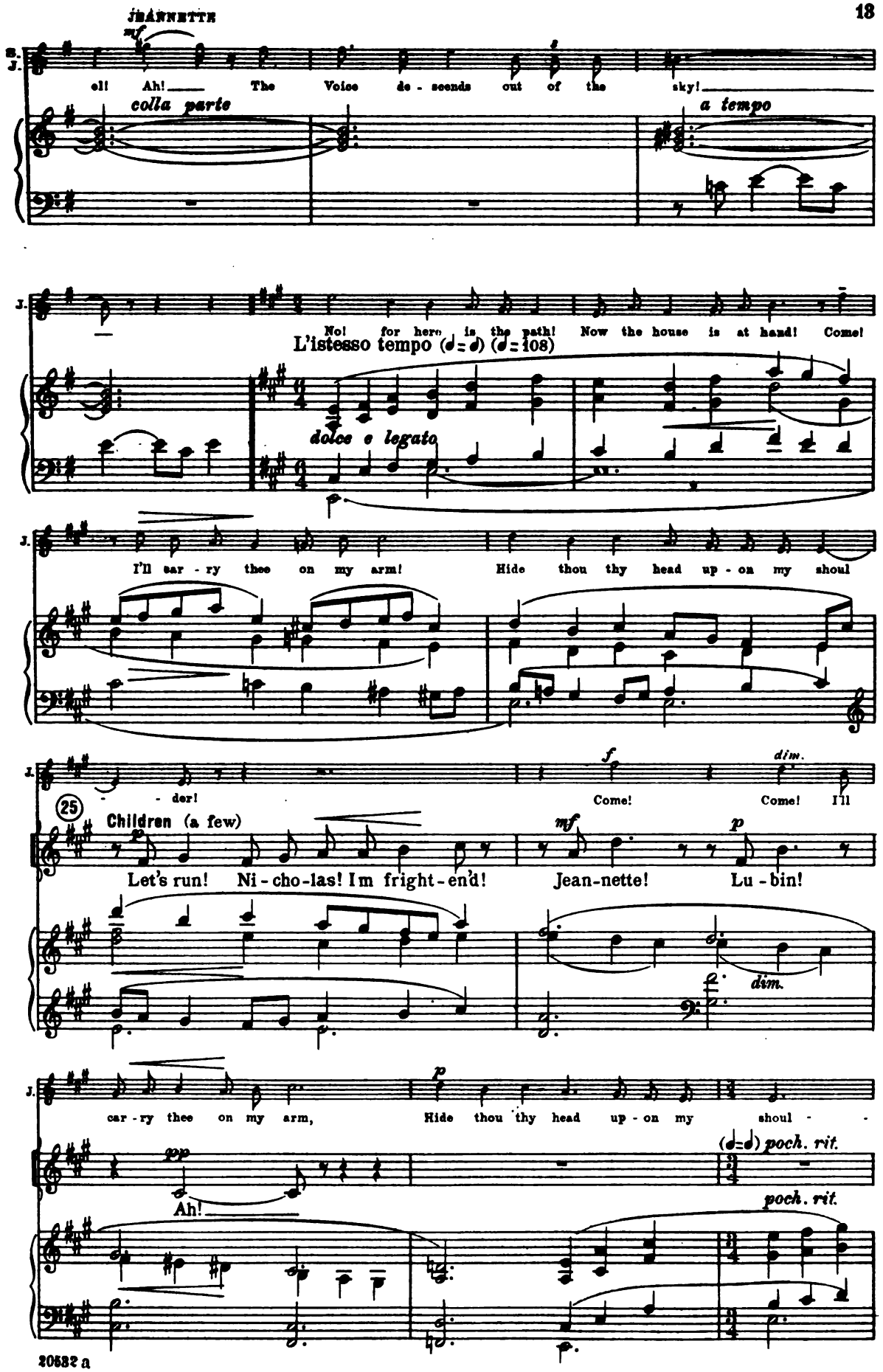
Copyright, 1907, by A. Joanin & Co.
Assigned, 1908, to G. Schirmer

show! Clack, clack, our sabots are dancing! Round we go! Clack, clack, our sabots are
dim.
dim.
THE STAR (far away)
No - ël! No - ël! No - ël!
danc-ing! Round we go!
5
2
S.
The star of day hath dawn'd!
pp
Our gay sa-bots are a-danc-ing,
sf
S.
'Mid this night, when frost
Round we go!
Round we go!

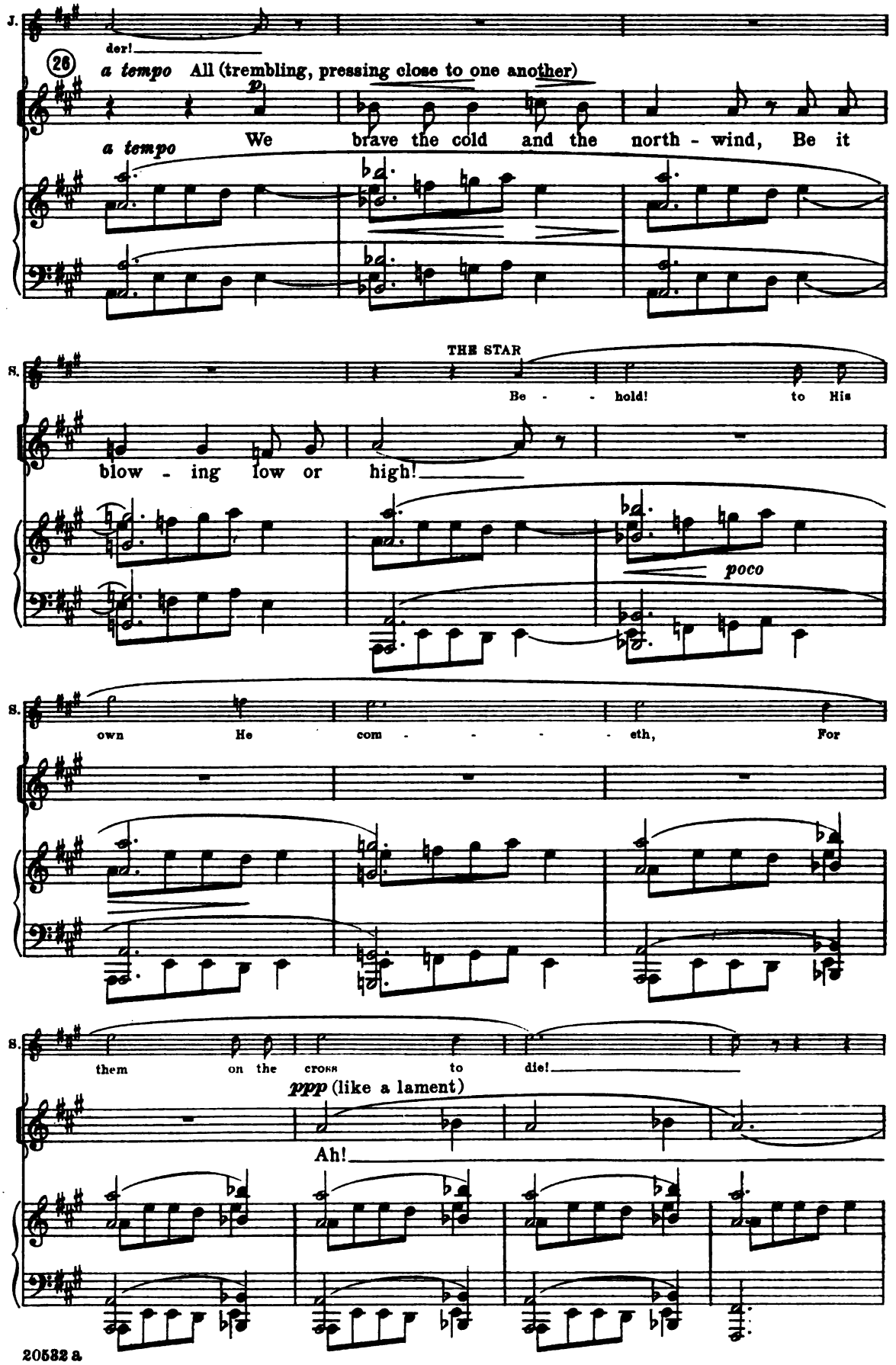
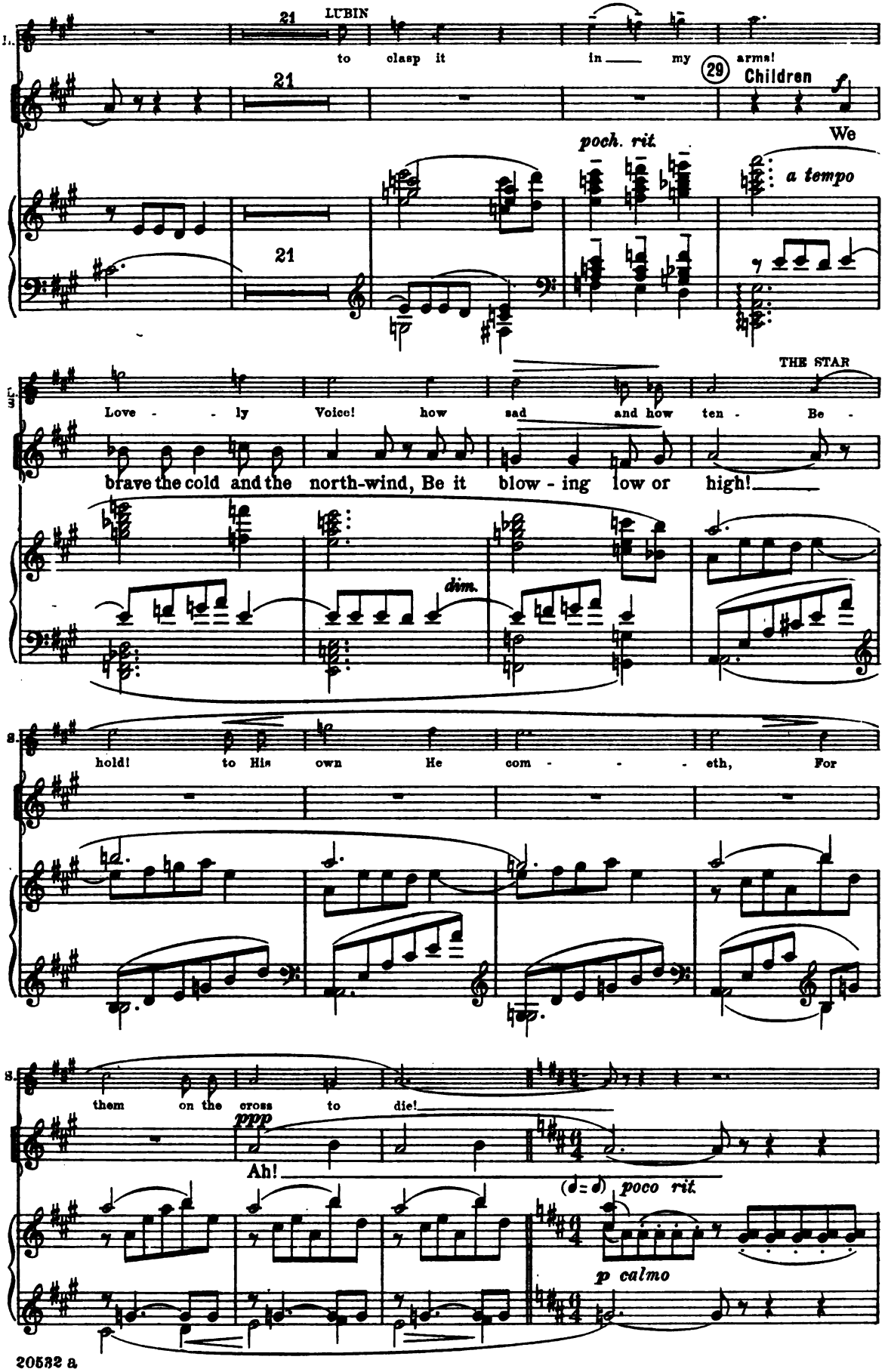

S.
flowr's are shin - - - ing. Is Je - - - sus, son of
pp
Red-head makes a brav - er show!
S.
Ma - - - ry, In low - ly man - ger born!
6
p
brav - er show!
Heads of
p leggero
S.
pronunziato
The day
brown and heads of yel - low, Red-head makes a brav-er show!
sost.
S.
poco rit.
star now doth rise. Je - sus, dear son of Ma - ry, In a man - ger
poco rit.

lies.
7 Children
mf
Jack and Joan they cried for the moon, sir! How she mocked them from the
a tempo
mf
blue! Jack and Joan (my tale's be - gun, sir!) One, sir! Thought they'd best be
f
f
8 (almost shouted)
ff
mf
laughing, too! Two! One, sir! Two! Pot of oil and pot of hon-ey, Love is
ff
mf
nev - er bought for mon - ey, Love is free to you and me! Three!
f
f

JEANETTE
Shad - ows
Love is free to you and me! One! Two! Three!
length - en. grow - ing deep. The night de scends
dim.
o'er our path - - - way. Let us home - ward lead our flock.
poco rinf.
— Our lamb - kins bleat, no long - er brows - ing, With fierce hun - ger

J.
Wolves are lurk - ing near!
10
Children
mf
f
One more round, sis - ter dear! One more
cresc.
mf leggero
round!
Sim - ple maid, no fur - ther wan - der, For the
f
mf
prince is wait - ing yon - der, Sleeping by the far - mer's ricks! Six!
ff
ff
11
ff
(a few)
mf
Sleep - ing by the far - mer's ricks! Four! Five! Six! He will
ff
p

say, "O Maid - en Ma - ry, Who toil-est in field and dair - y, Thou hast
found the King's own son!" One!
(All)
mf (a few)
"Thou hast found the King's own son!"
12
(All)
Now we're done!
mf (a few)
Now we are done, five, six, sev - en! All good
(a few)
chil - dren go to heav'n! One, two, three, four, five, six,
(All)
sev-en! All good children go to

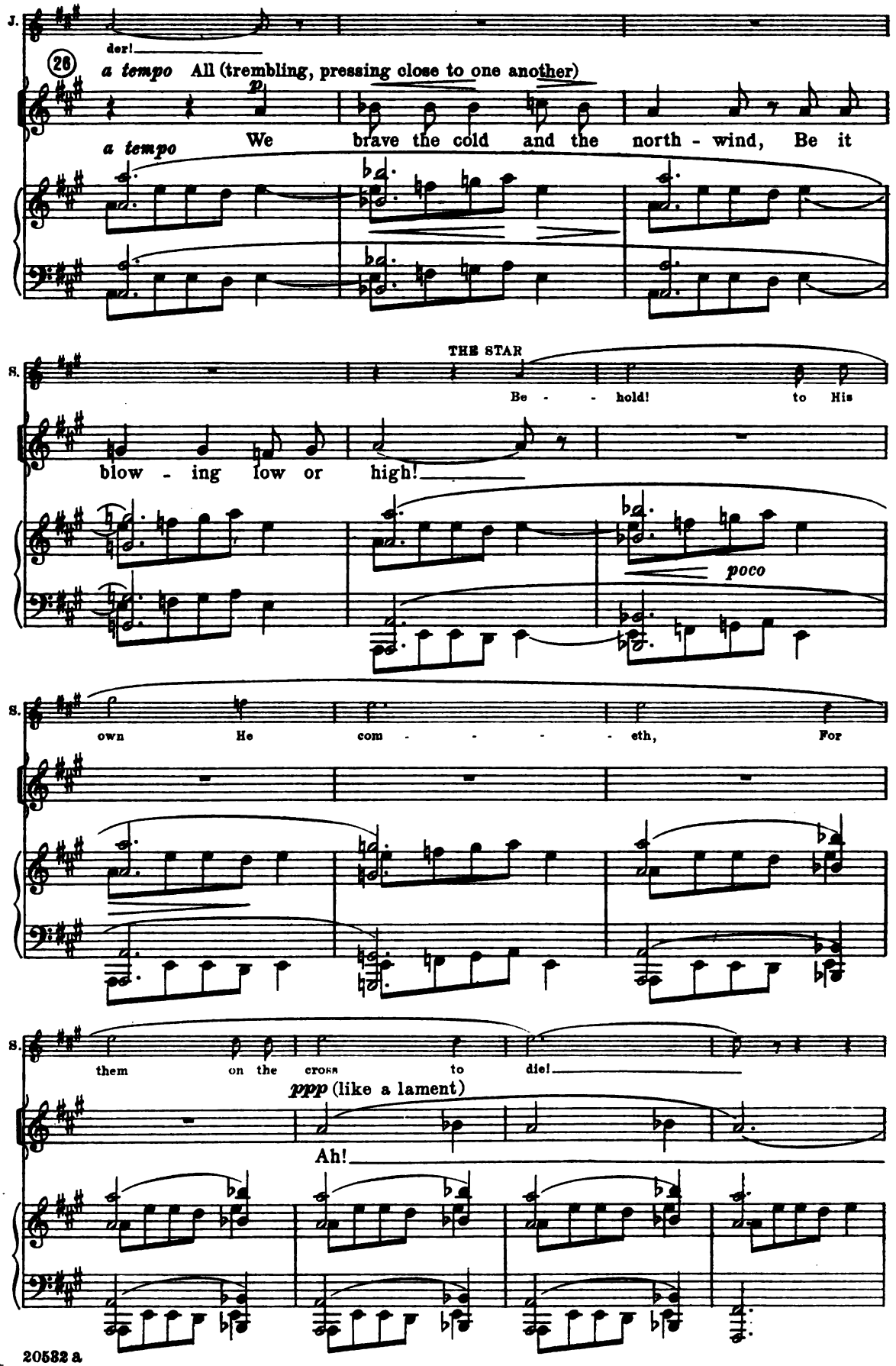
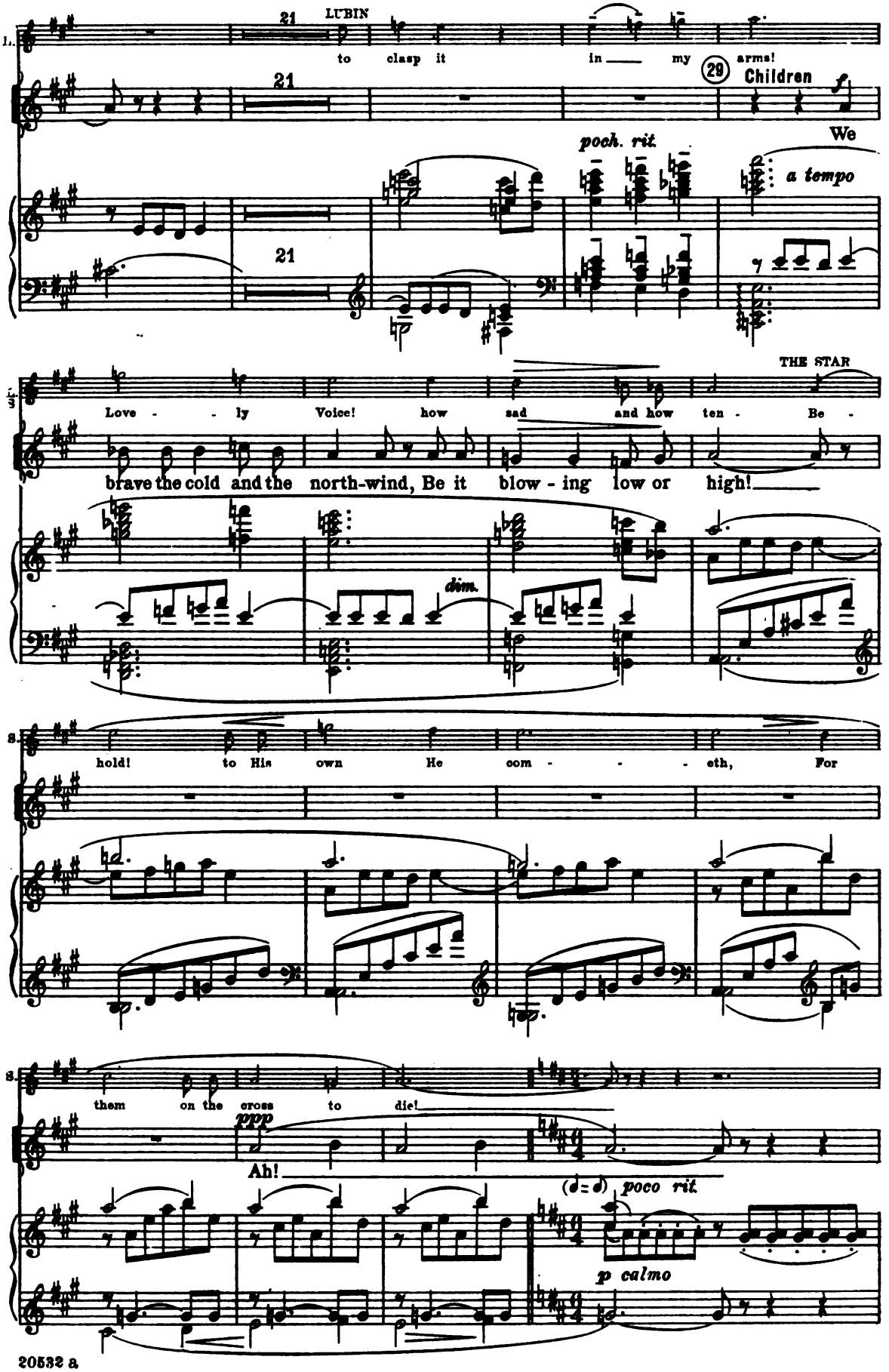
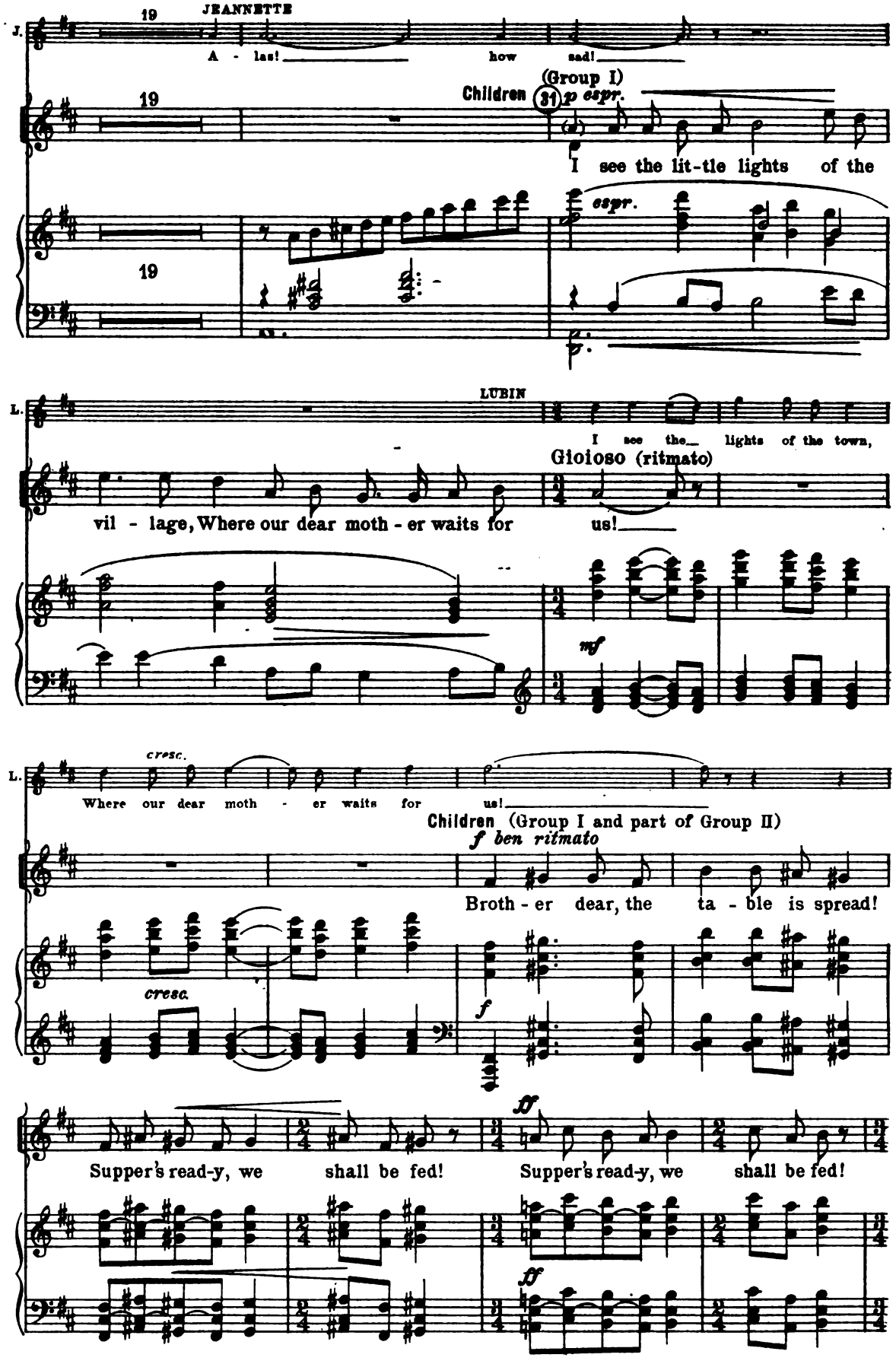
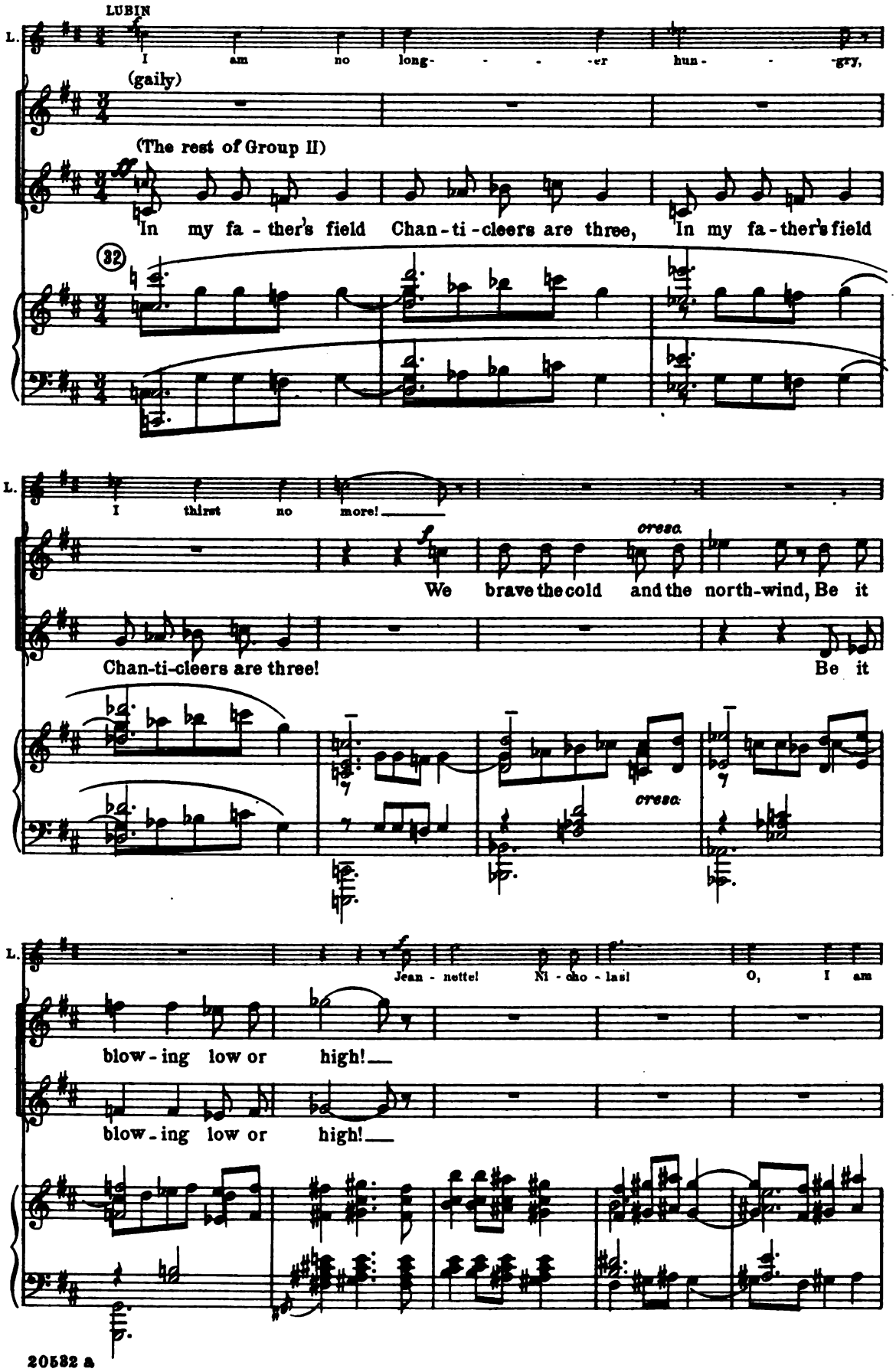
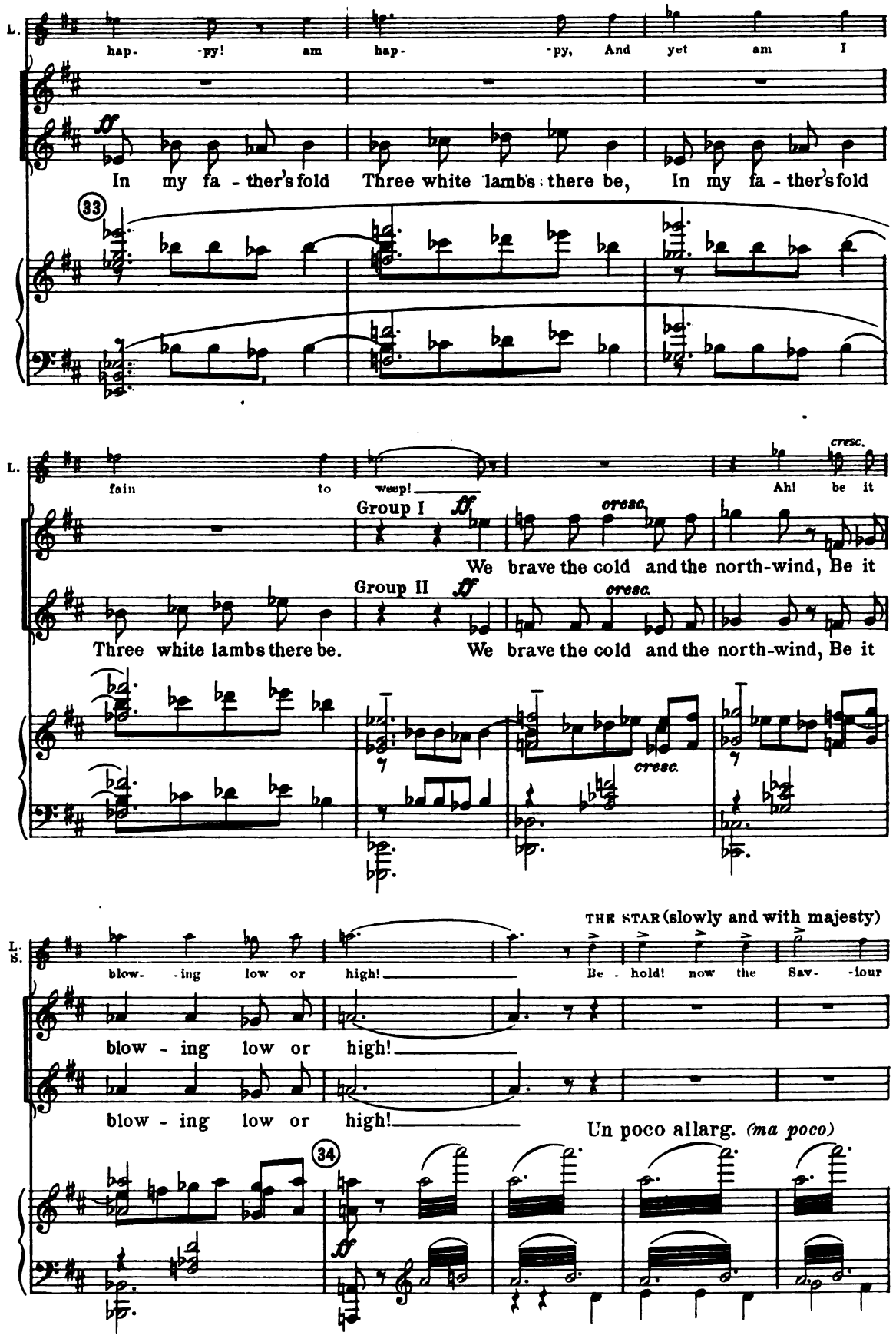
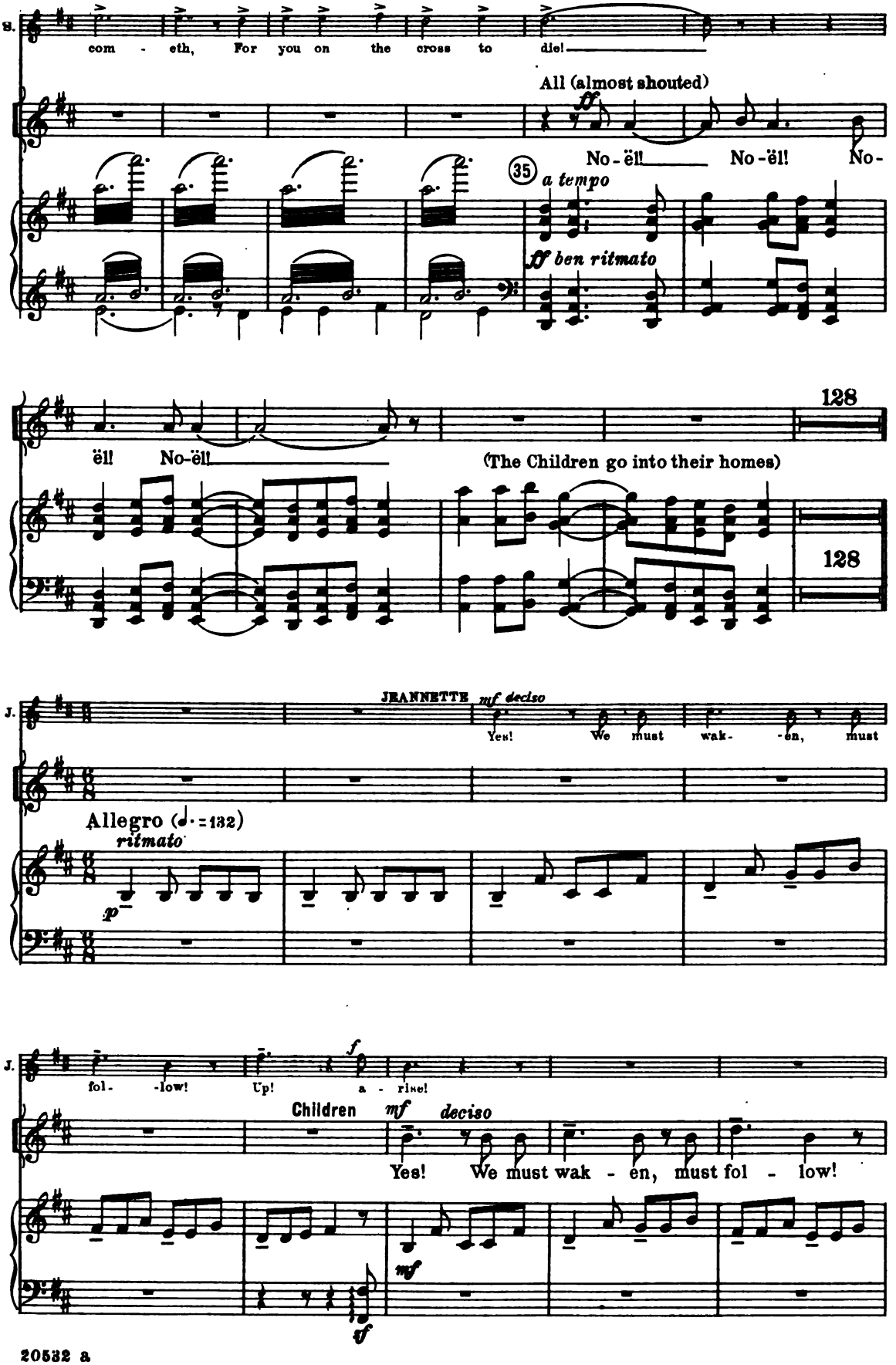
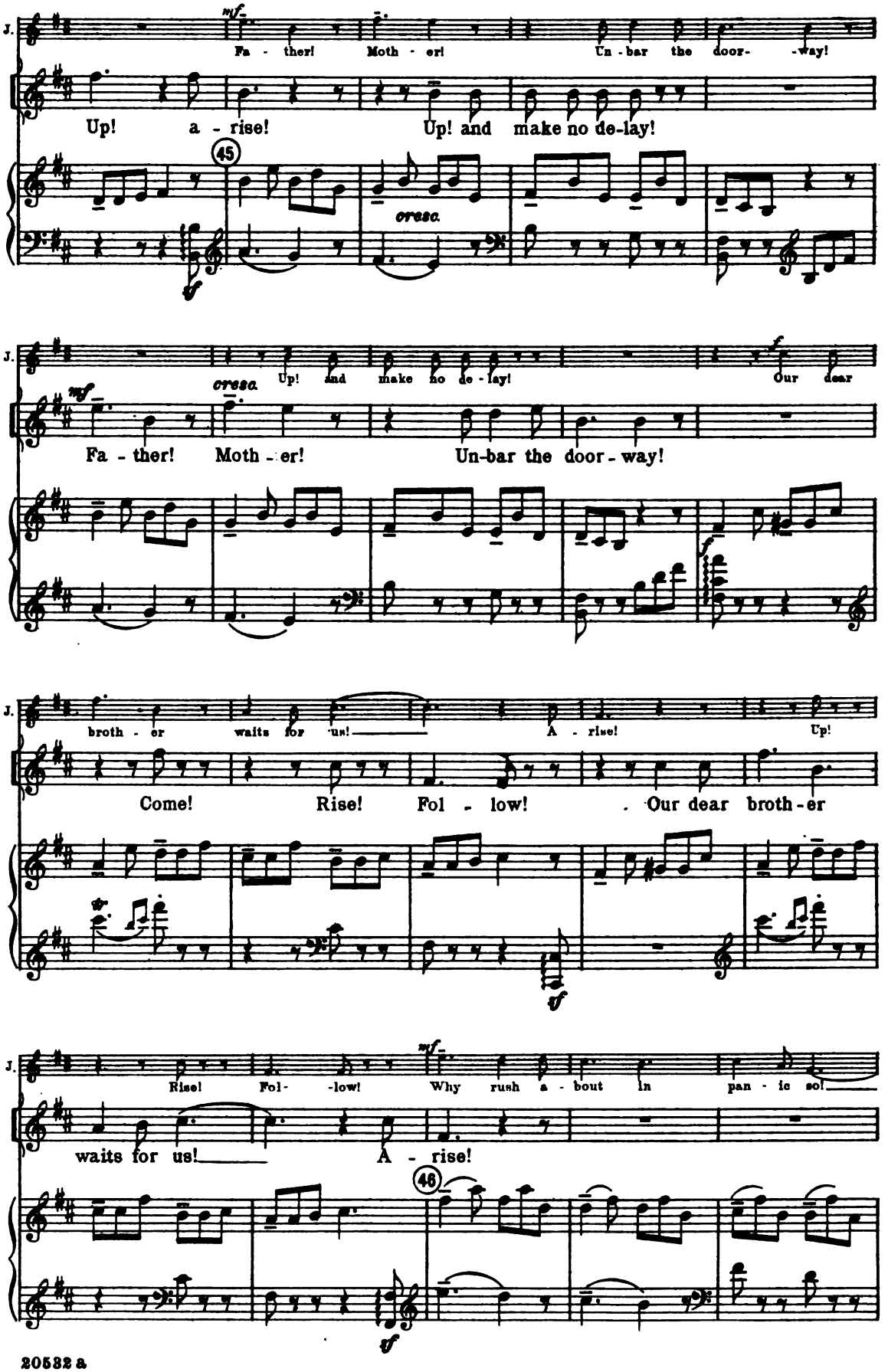
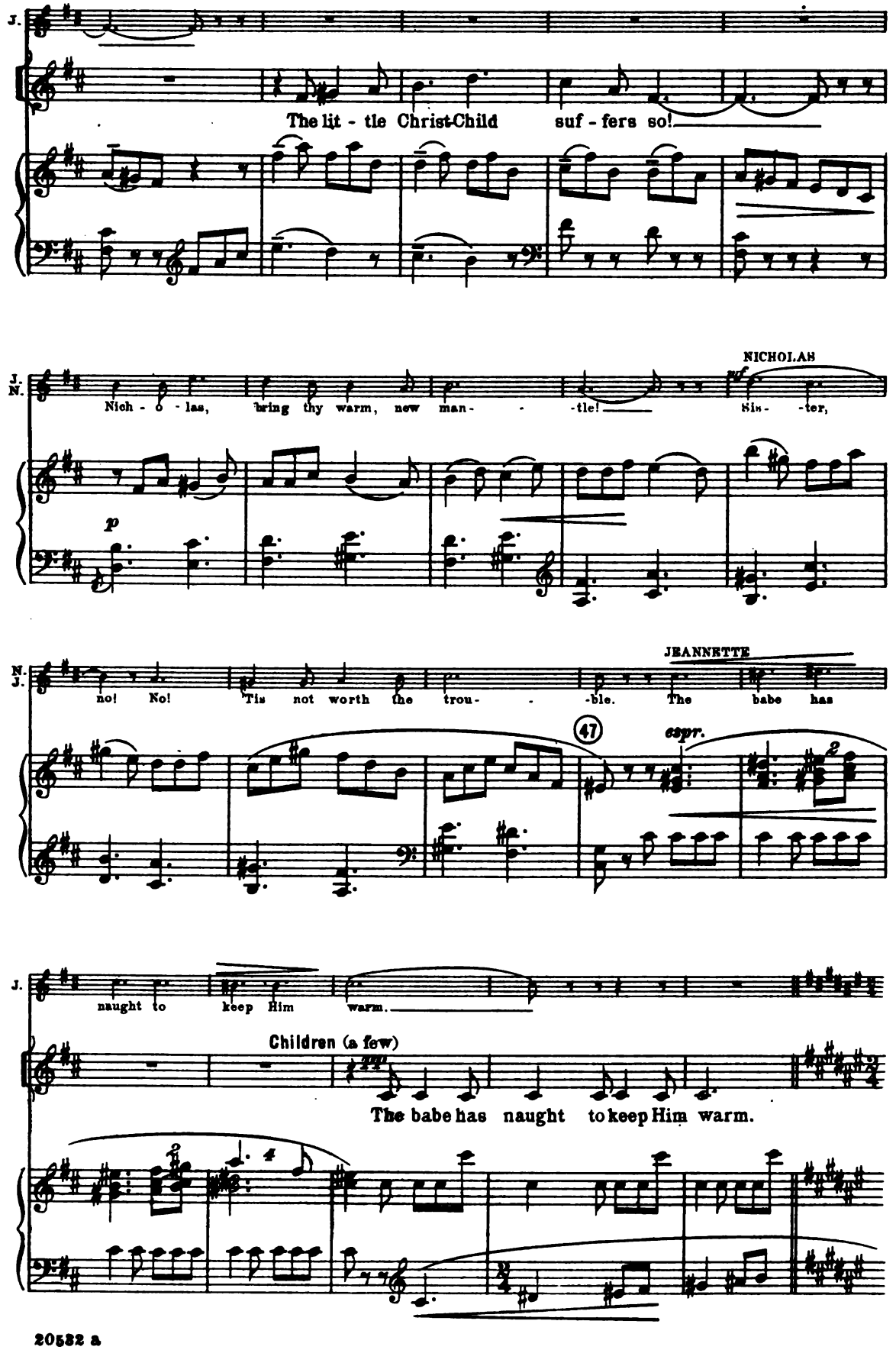
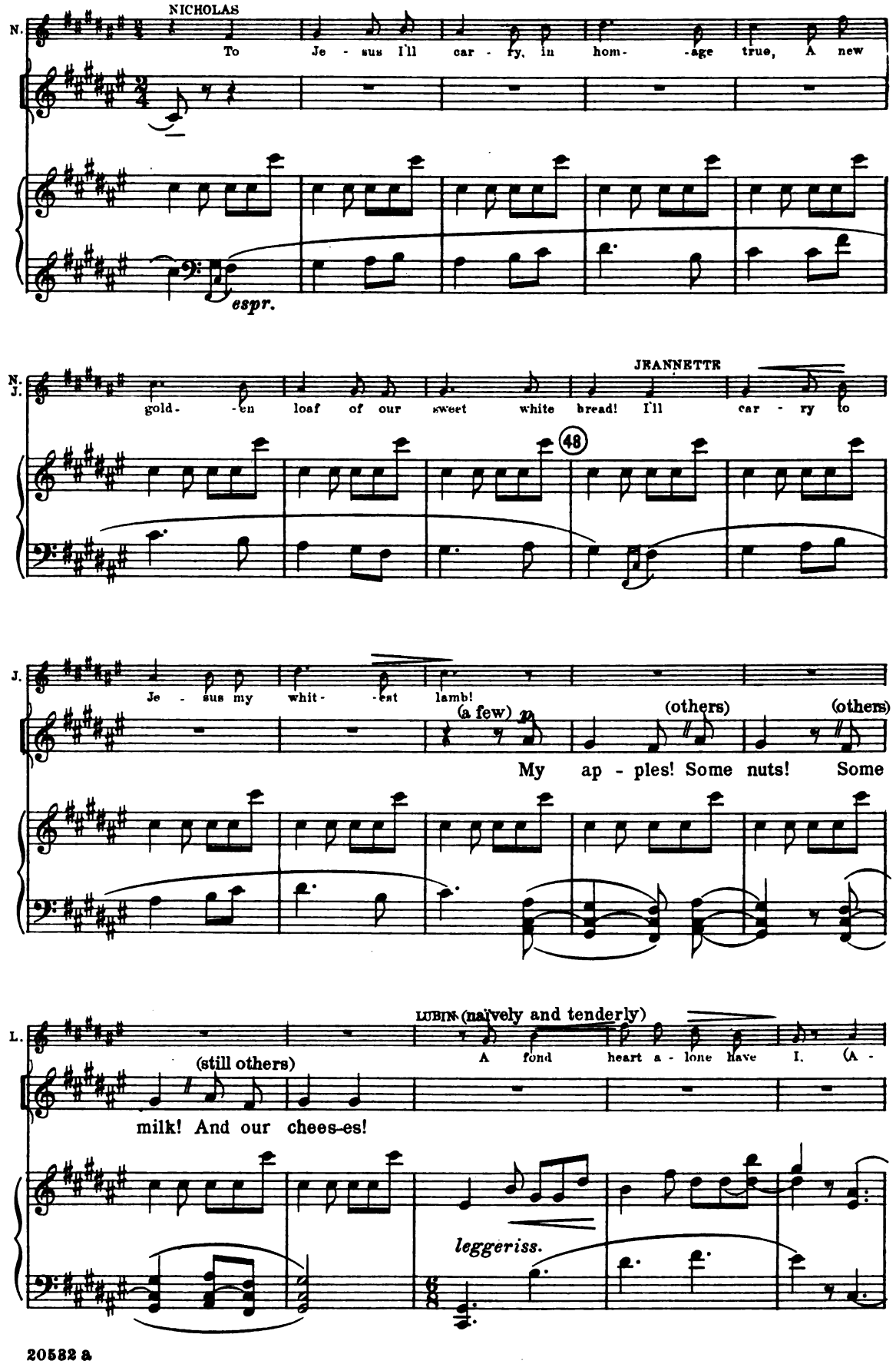
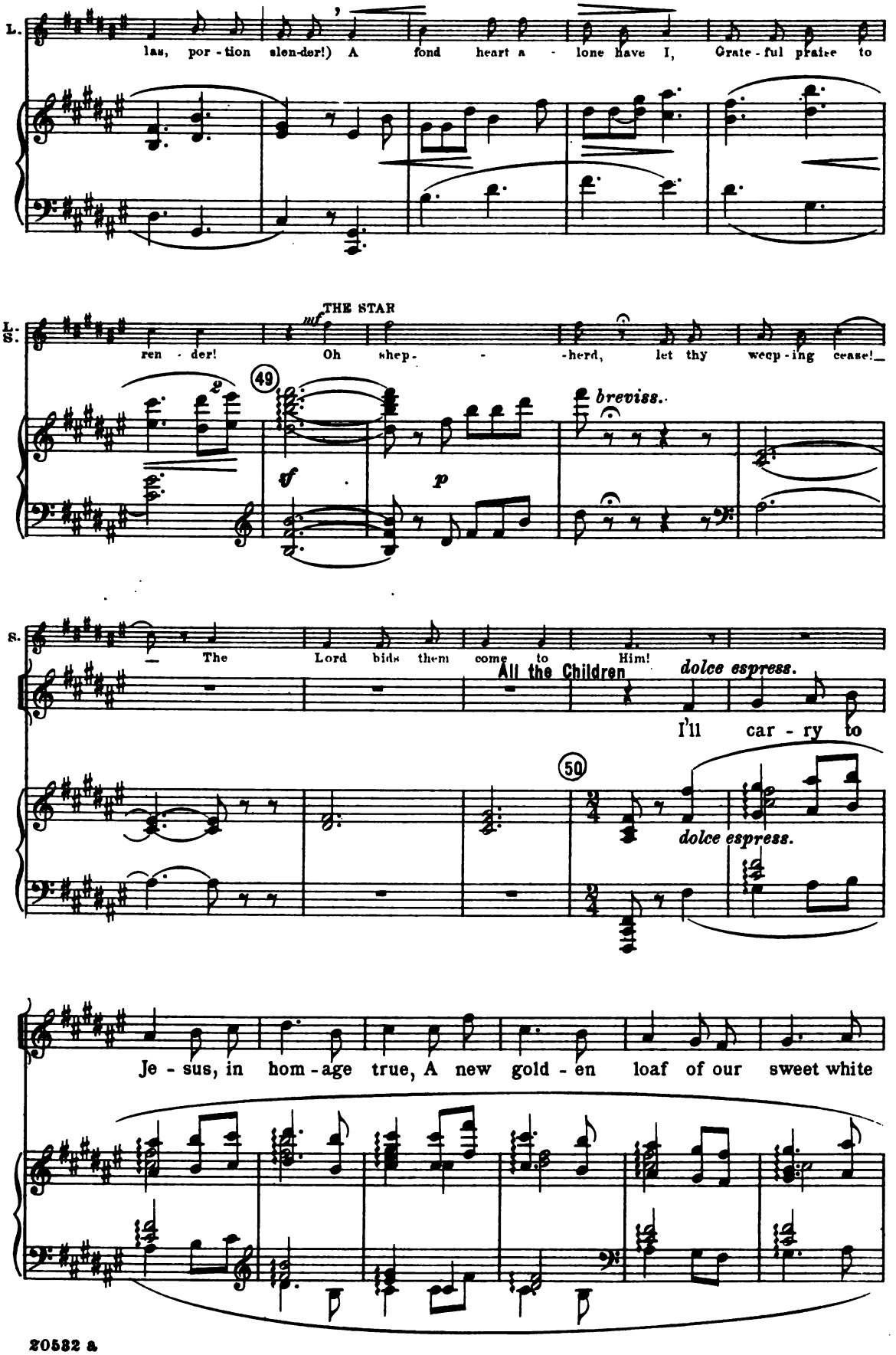
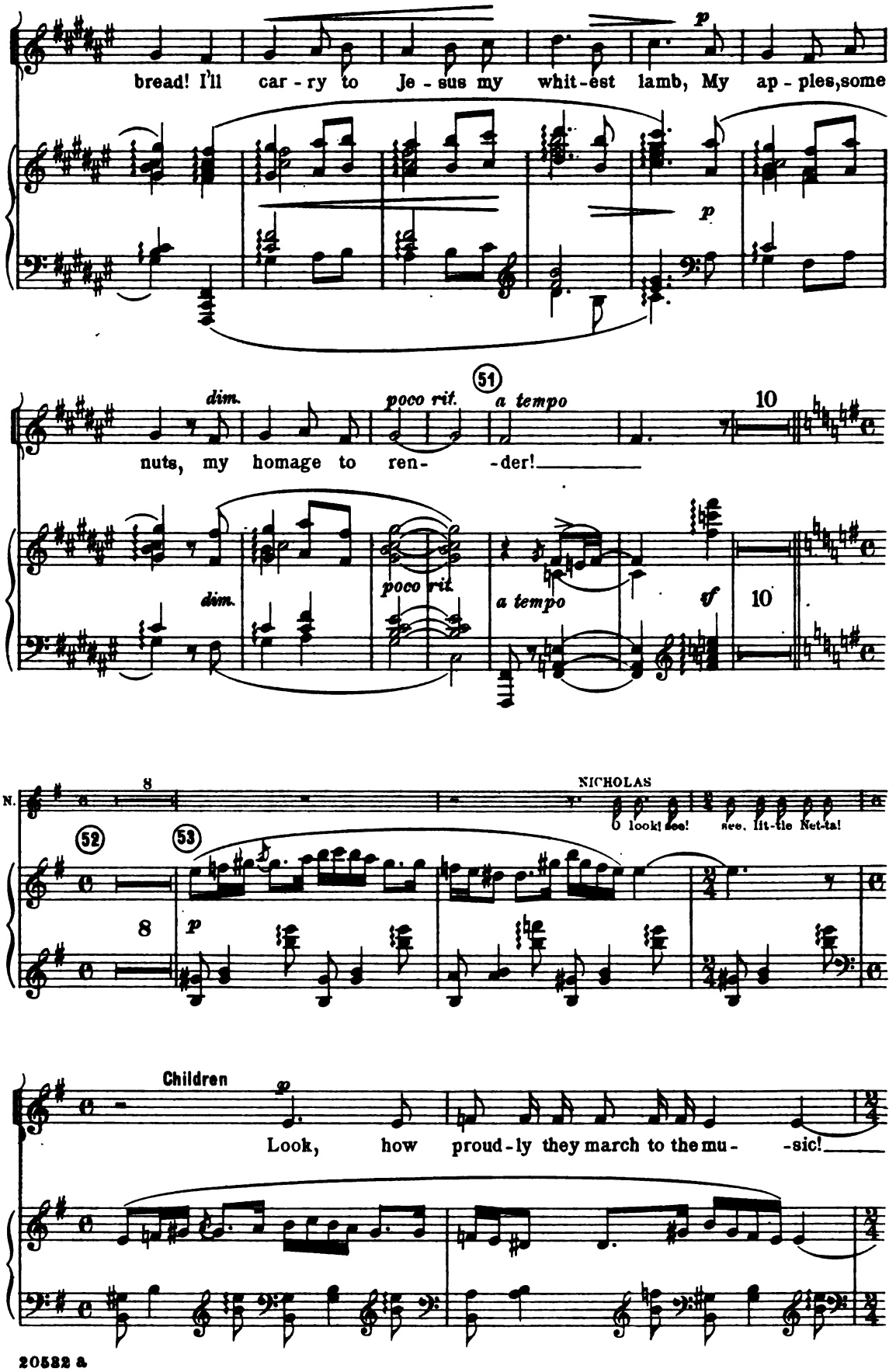
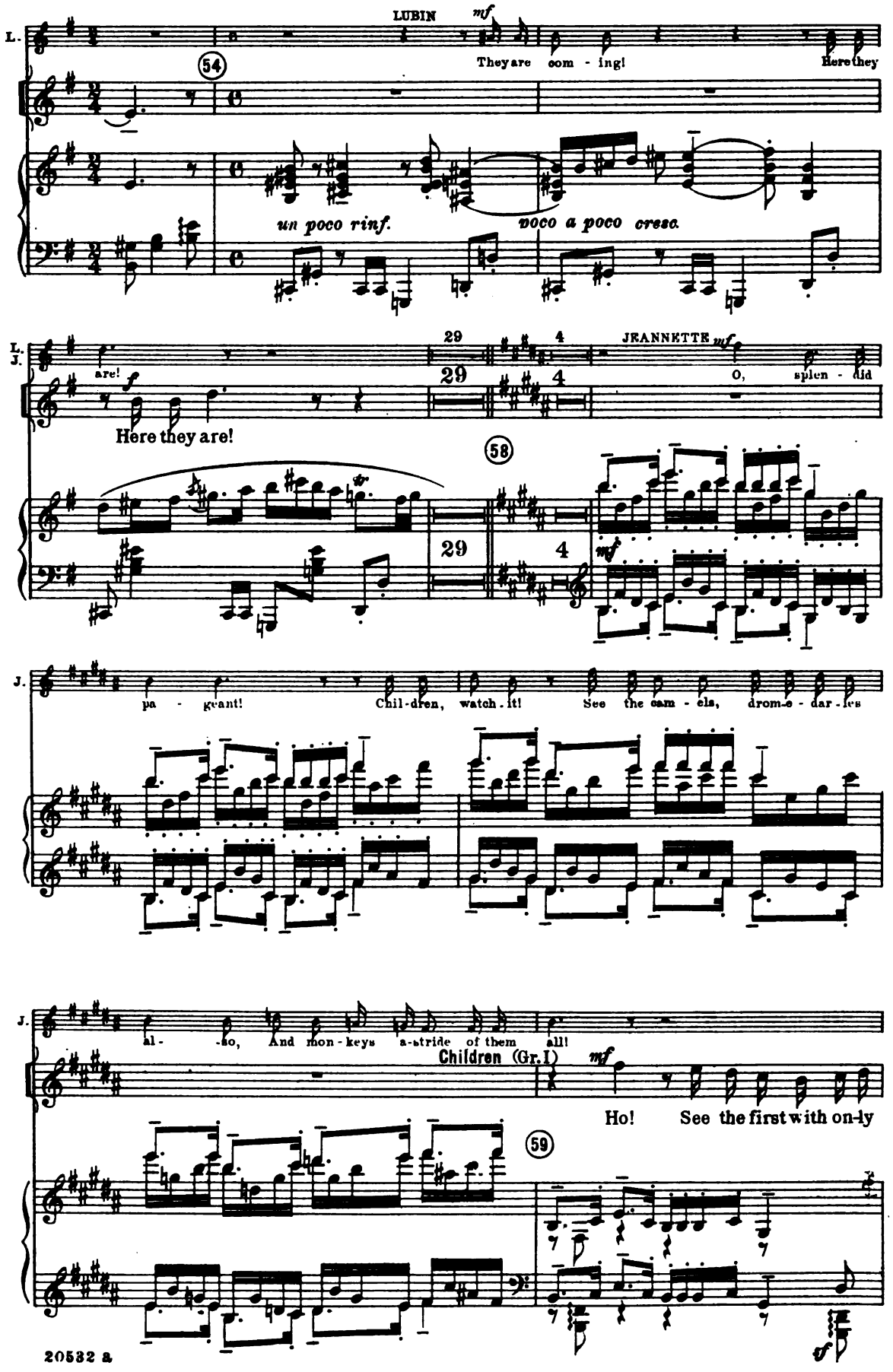
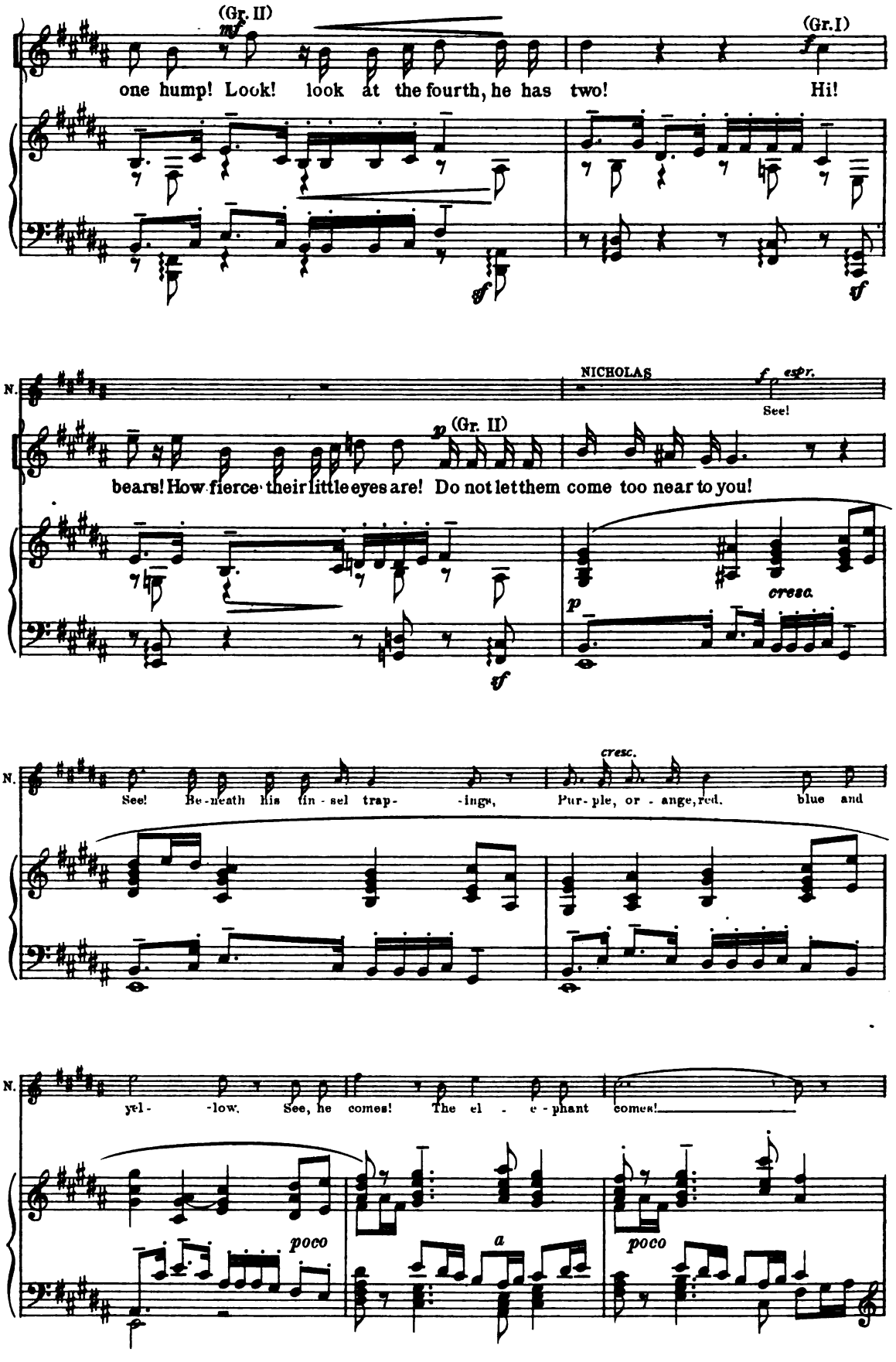
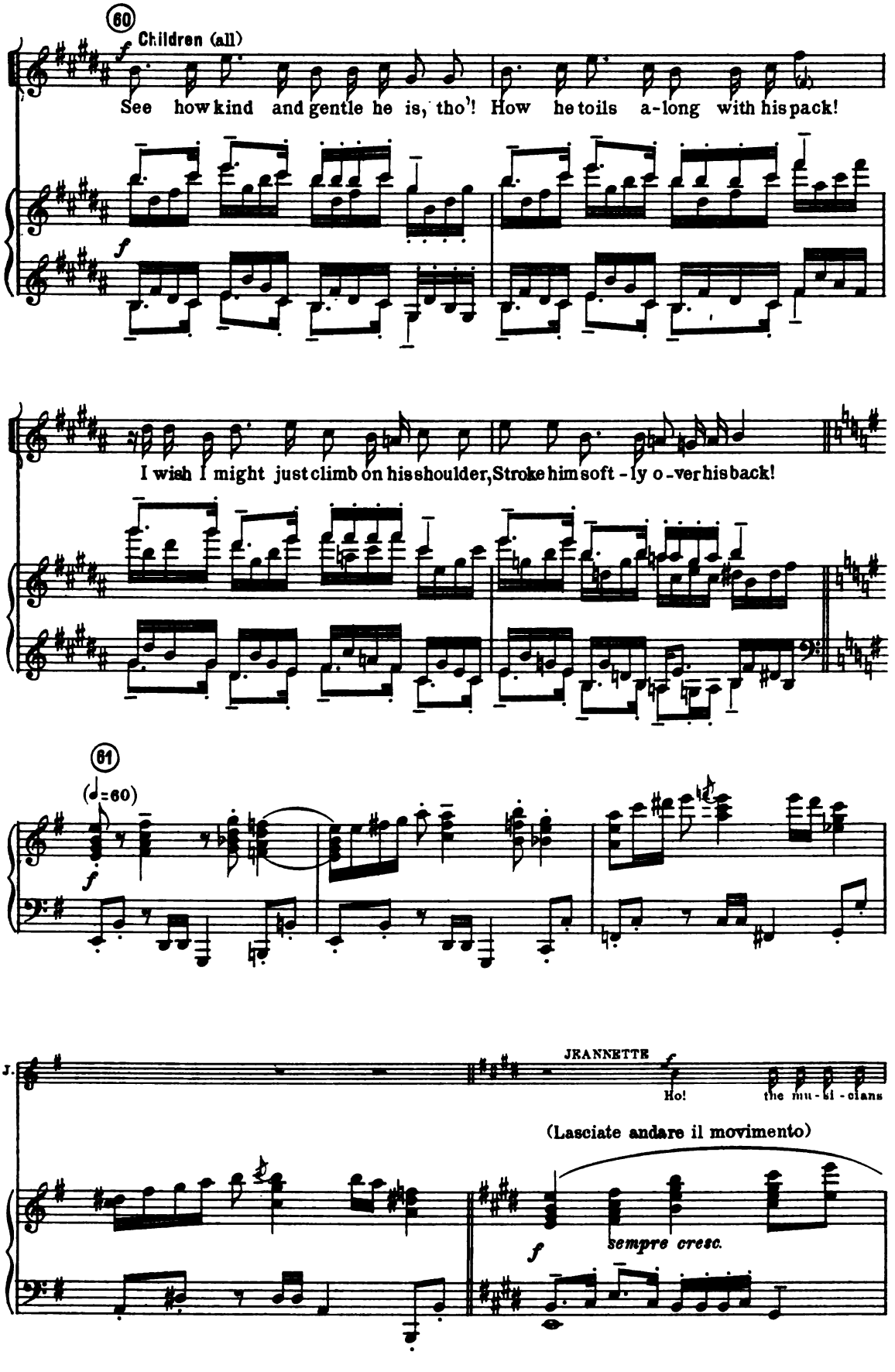
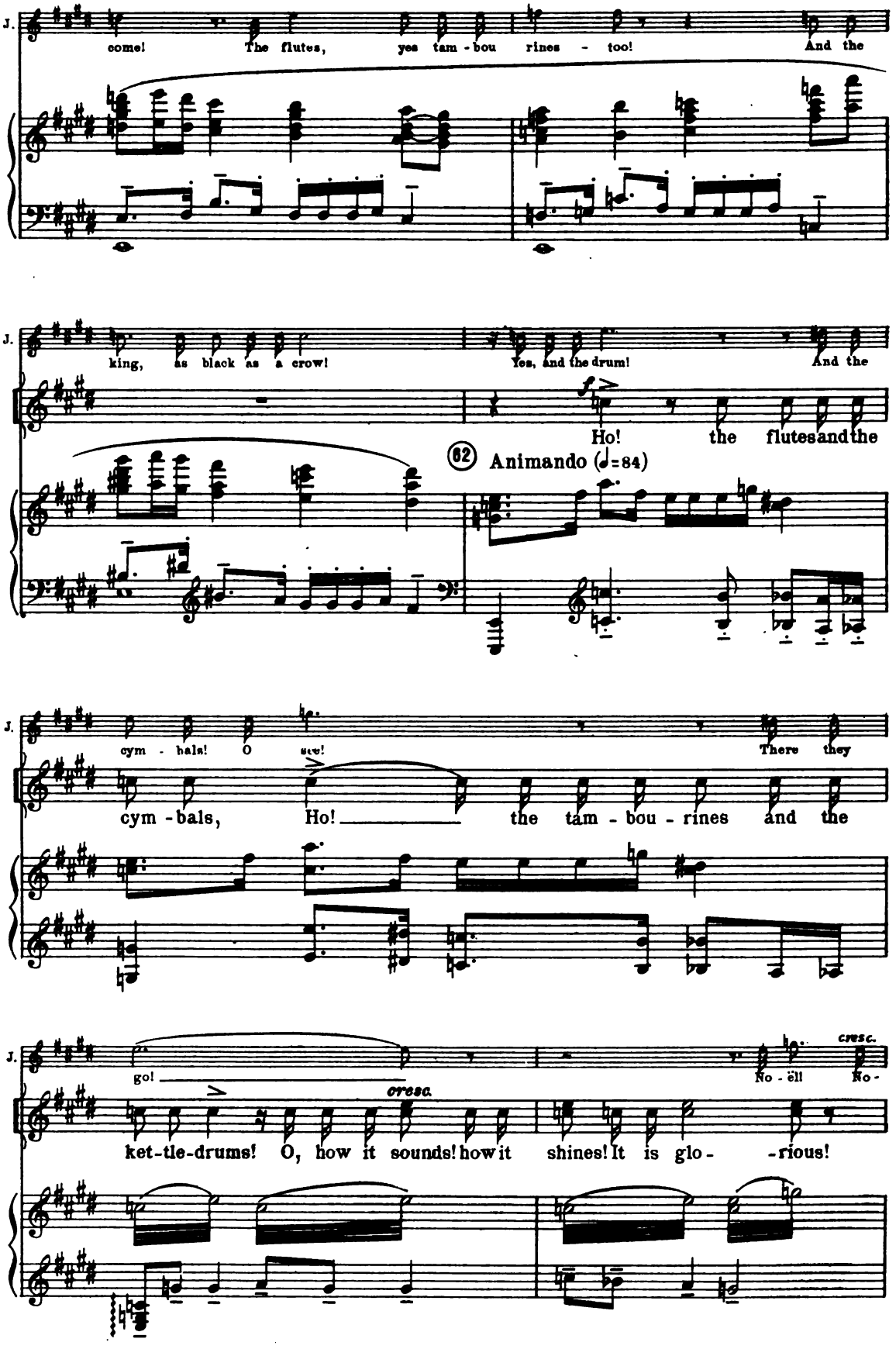

JEANNETTE
O, I'm a - fraid! Let's go!
heav-en!
(Group I)
Let's go! Our shoes in our
hands, So we can run the fast - er!
(Group II)
Let's go! Our shoes in our
JEANNETTE
Good Fi - do!
hands, So we can run the fast - er!
dim.
Go ga - ther in the sheep!
(All)
Good dog! good dog!

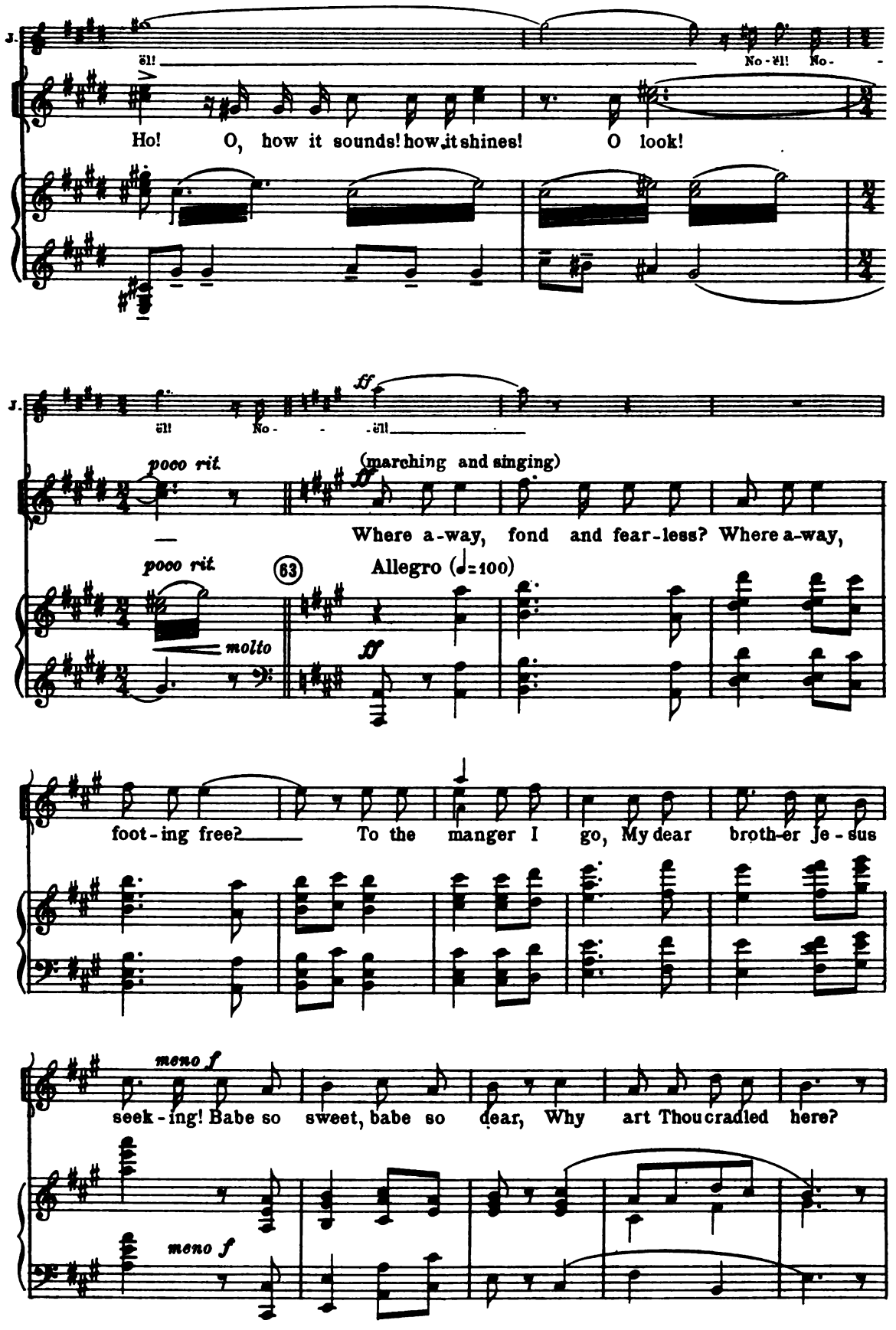

pp
Let's run! Let's run!
dim.
go gather in the sheep! Let's run! Let's run!
A Herdsman
(1)
Et o lou - va - let, o lou - va - let,
Tempo I
17
18
8 rit. 6
ppp
lou - va - let de - re - lo. Lou - va - let, lou - va - let, lou - va -
lunga
let la la a - let.
Allegro ma non troppo (♩= 116)
19 Children (Group I)
We'll sing, but ver - y
pp

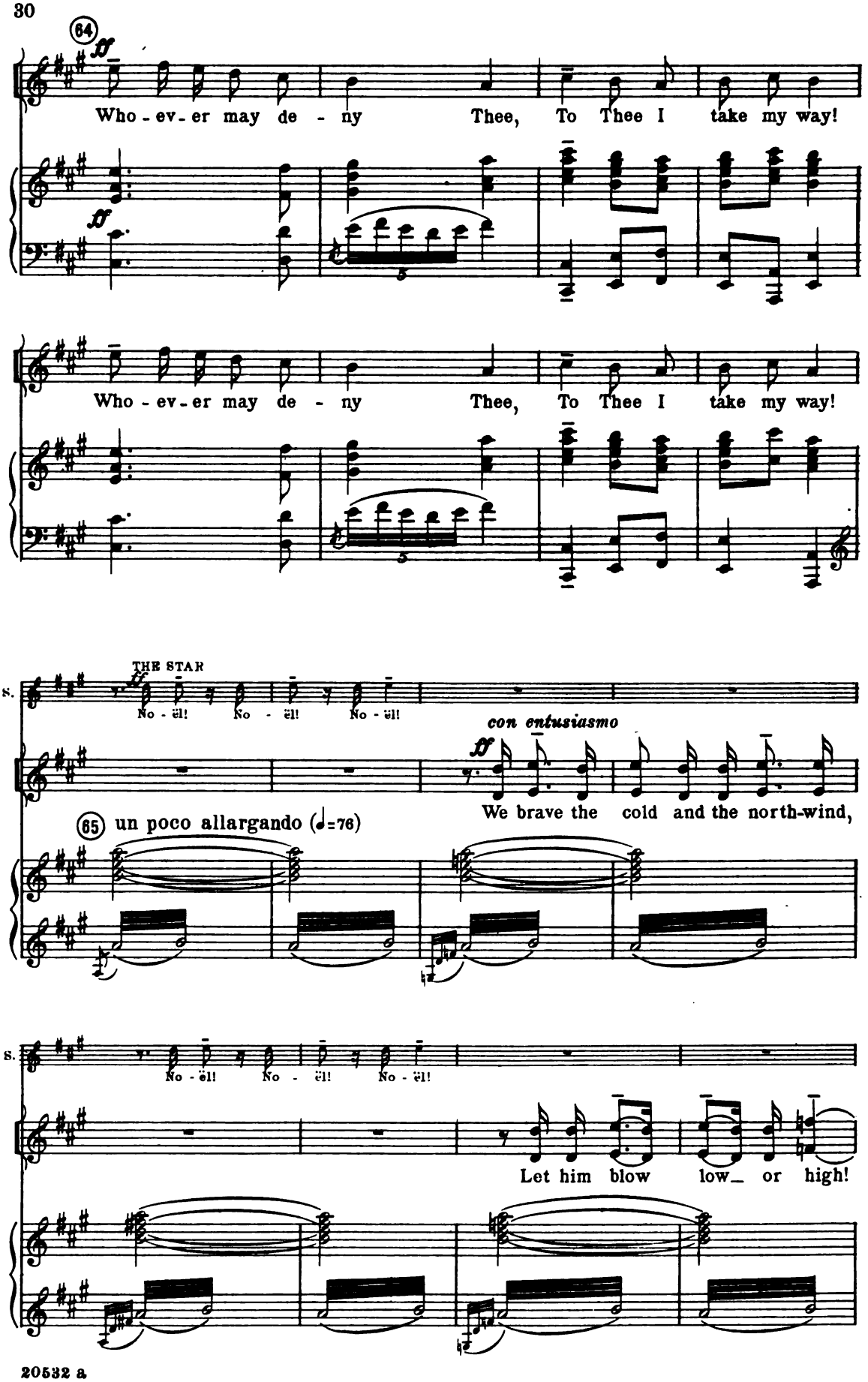
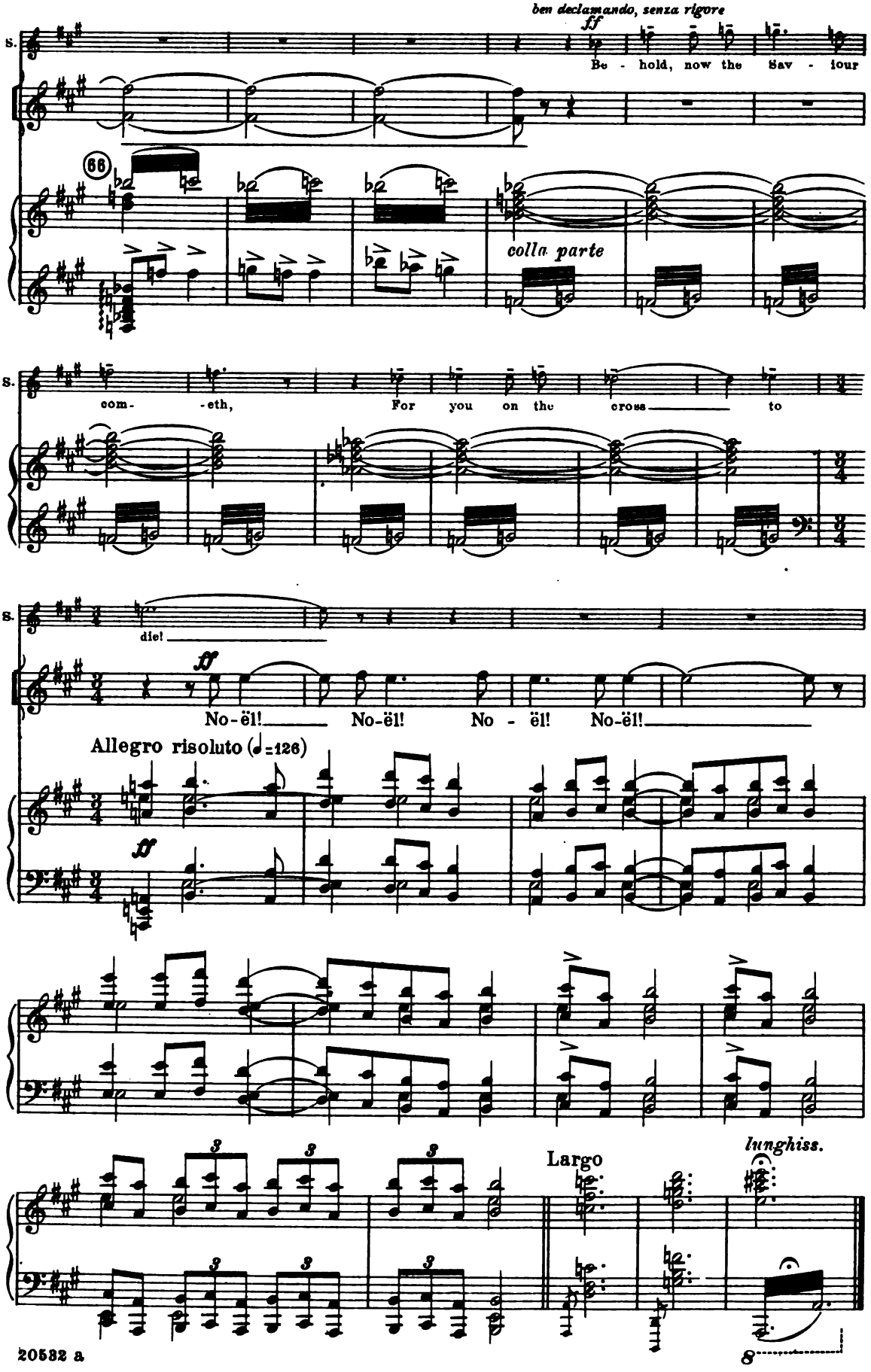
(1) Call of the shepherds to their sheep

(Group II)
p
(All)
poco
low! We'll sing, but ver-y low! Hand in hand let us
poco
go! Hand in hand let us go!
(Group I)
(Group II)
We'll sing, but ver-y low! So the
pp
20
(All)
naughty sprite can-not find us, And with ne'er a glance be - hind us, On our
(They start off. They hurry, but do not go
homeward way we go!
cresc.
very fast, and as the little ones are ready to cry, the older ones begin to sing, in weak voices, trembling with fear, an old lament of the chimney corner.)
f
dim.
poco rit.

The Children
21
(Group I)
p dolente
In my father's field Chanti-cleers are three,
(Group II)
p
In my father's field
a tempo
p
8
leggero
(All)
Chanticleers are three;
One asleep with drooping wings,
One his nois-y challenge flings,
One that neither sleeps nor sings, one that
22
doloroso
rinf.
dim.
neither sleeps nor sings!
Ah! la, la, la,
la, la, la,
la, la, la!
rinf.
dim.
rit.
(Group I)
p a tempo
In my father's fold Three white lambs there be,
(Group II)
p
In my father's fold
8
rit.
p a tempo

(All)
Three white lambs there be;
One to crop the tender grass,
One to chase the winds that pass,
One to love and fol-low me, one to
love and fol-low me!
Ah! la, la, la,
la, la, la,
la, la, la!
doloroso
rinf.
dim.
dim.
rit.
a tempo
dim. sempre
In my fa-ther's fold Three white lambs there be,
rit.
a tempo
dim. sempre
THE STAR
S.
No - ël!
No - ël!
No -
molto
pp
24
a tempo
In my fa-ther's fold Three white lambs there
be.
a tempo
pp


JEANNETTE
mf
S.
J.
oh! Ah! The Voice de - scends out of the sky!
colla parte
a tempo
J.
No! for here is the path! Now the house is at hand! Come!
L'istesso tempo (♩=♩) (♩=108)
dolce e legato
J.
I'll car - ry thee on my arm! Hide thou thy head up - on my shoul
J.
- der! Come! Come! I'll
f
dim.
25
Children (a few)
p
mf
p
Let's run! Ni - cho - las! I'm fright - en'd! Jean-nette! Lu - bin!
dim.
J.
car - ry thee on my arm, Hide thou thy head up - on my shoul -
p
pp
Ah!
(♩=♩) poch. rit.
poch. rit.

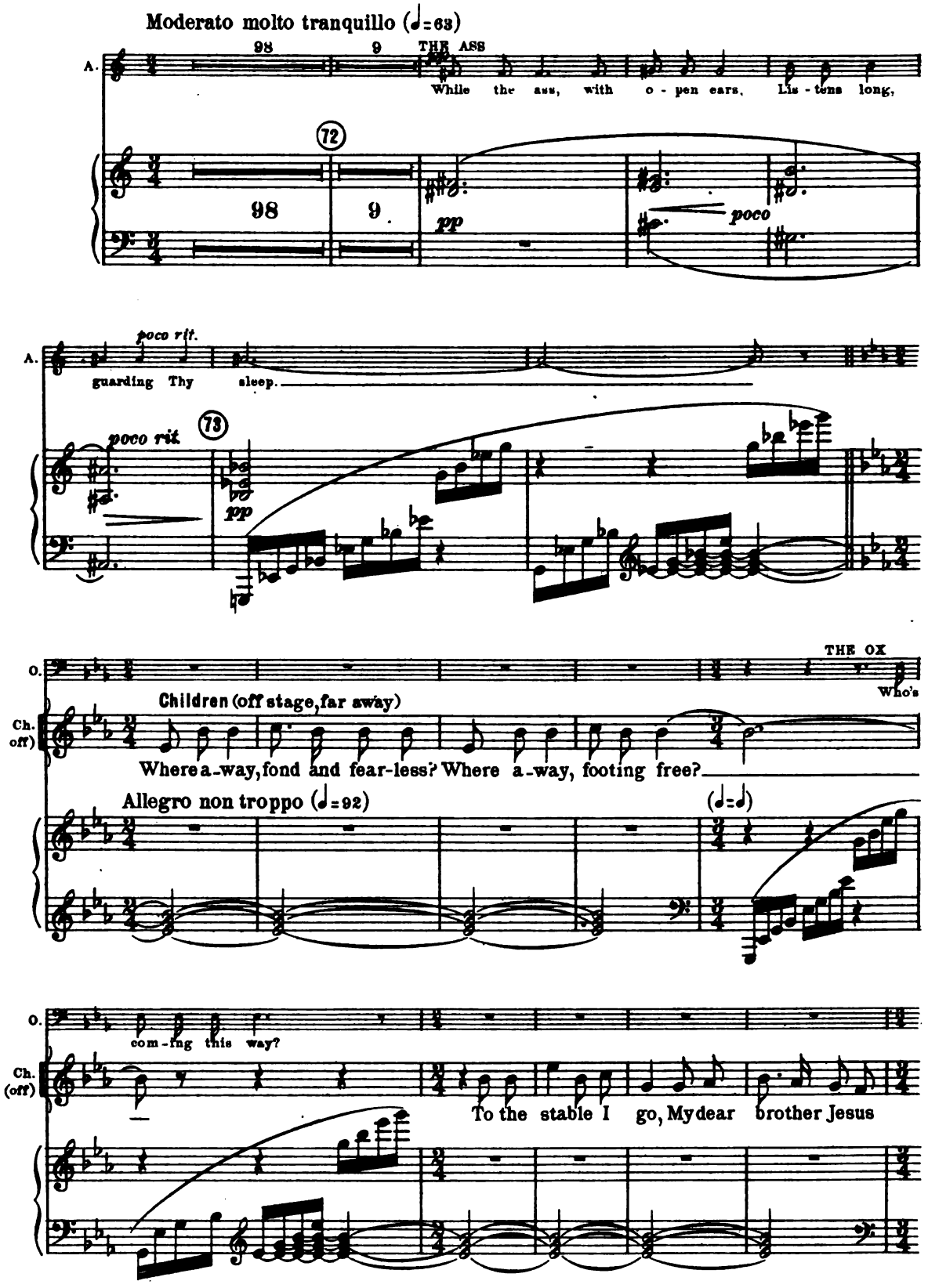
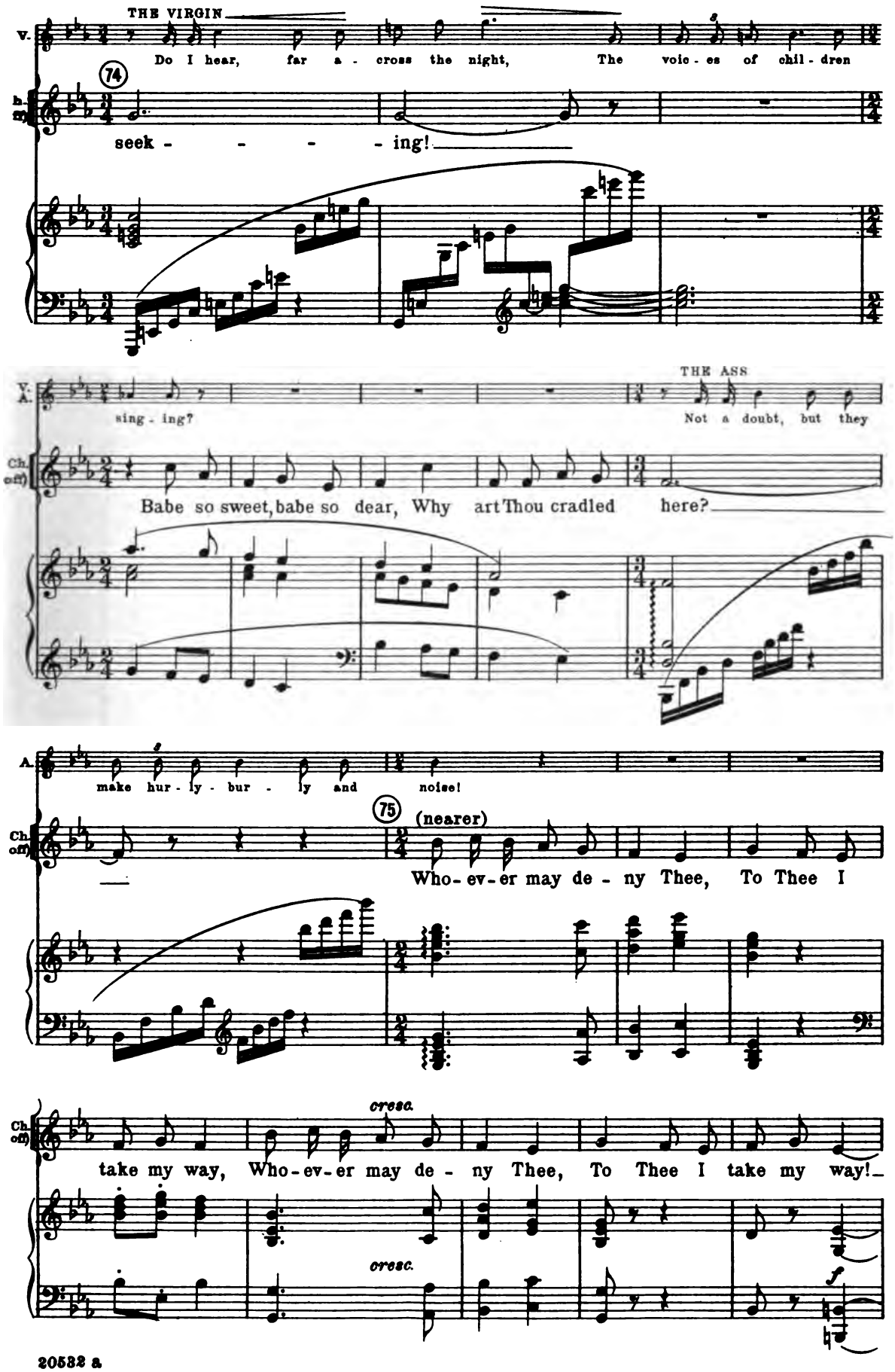
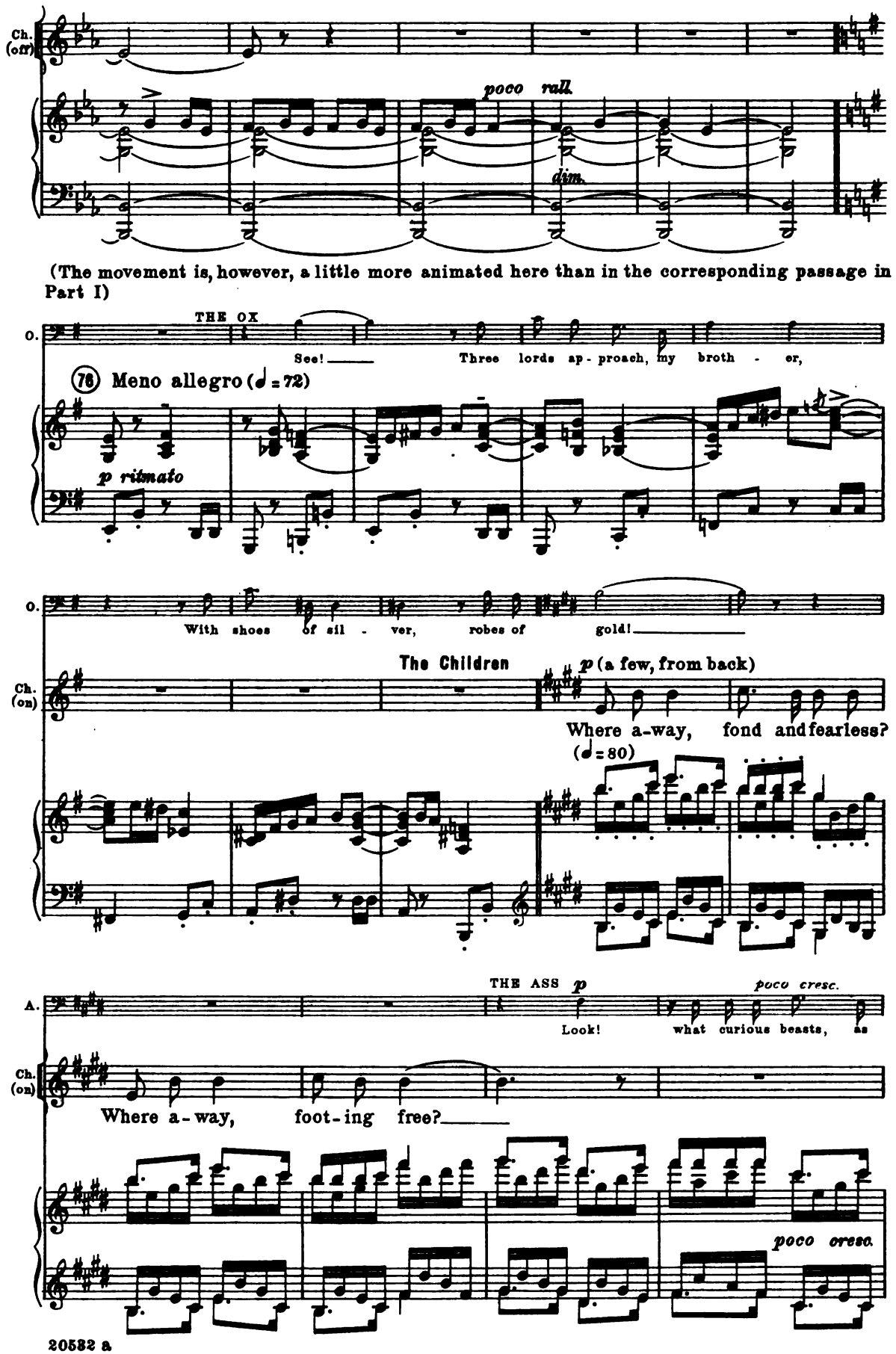
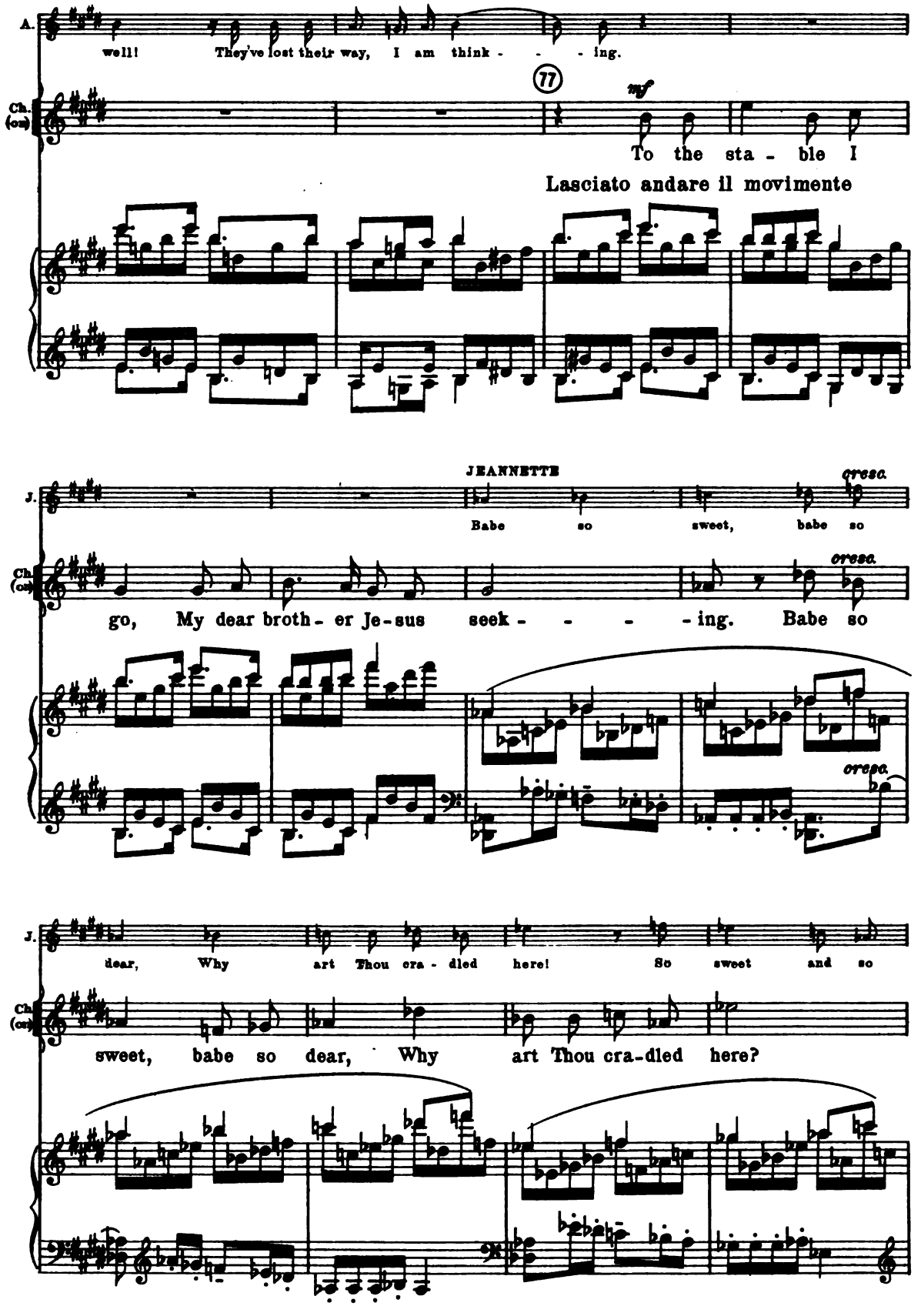
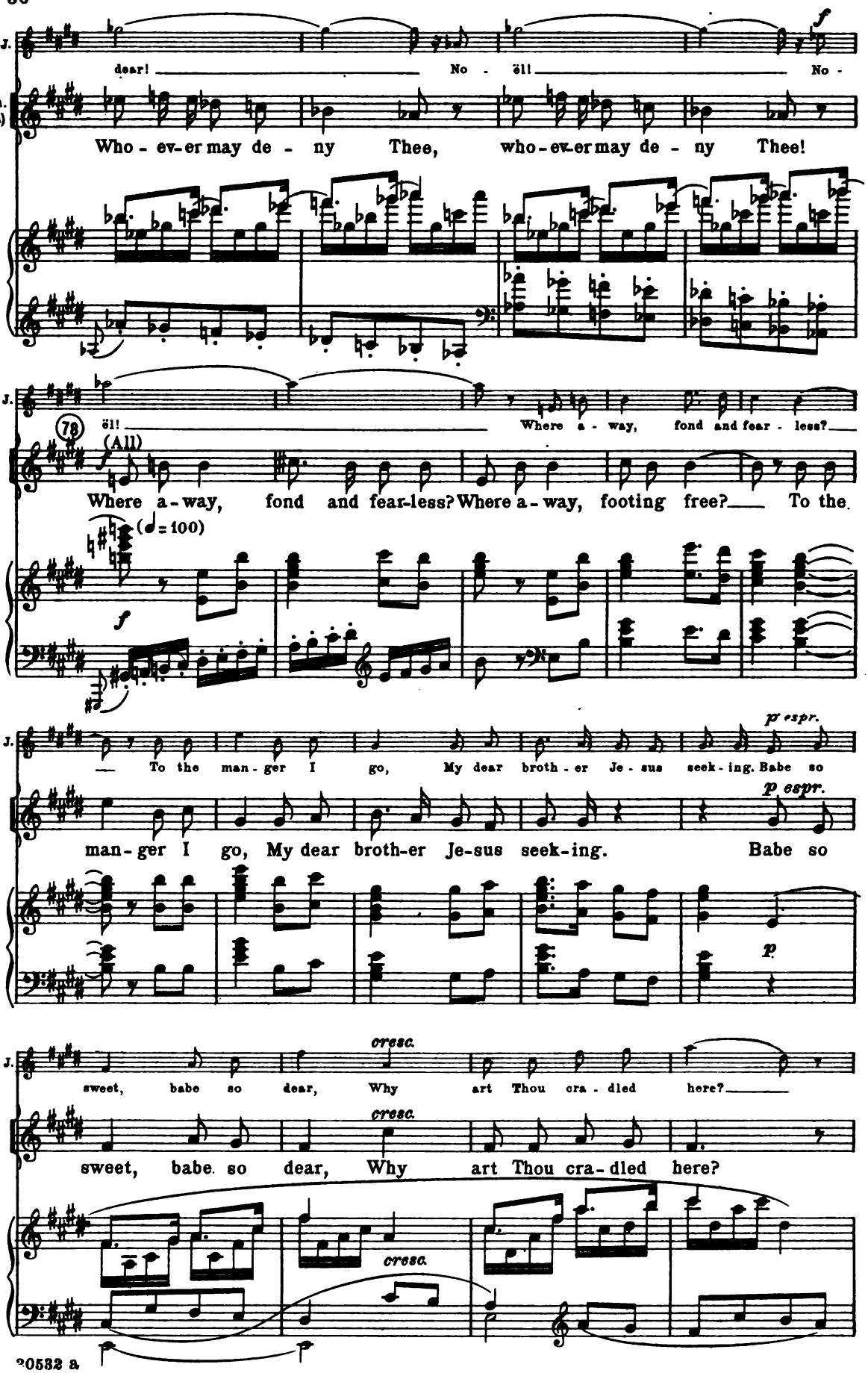
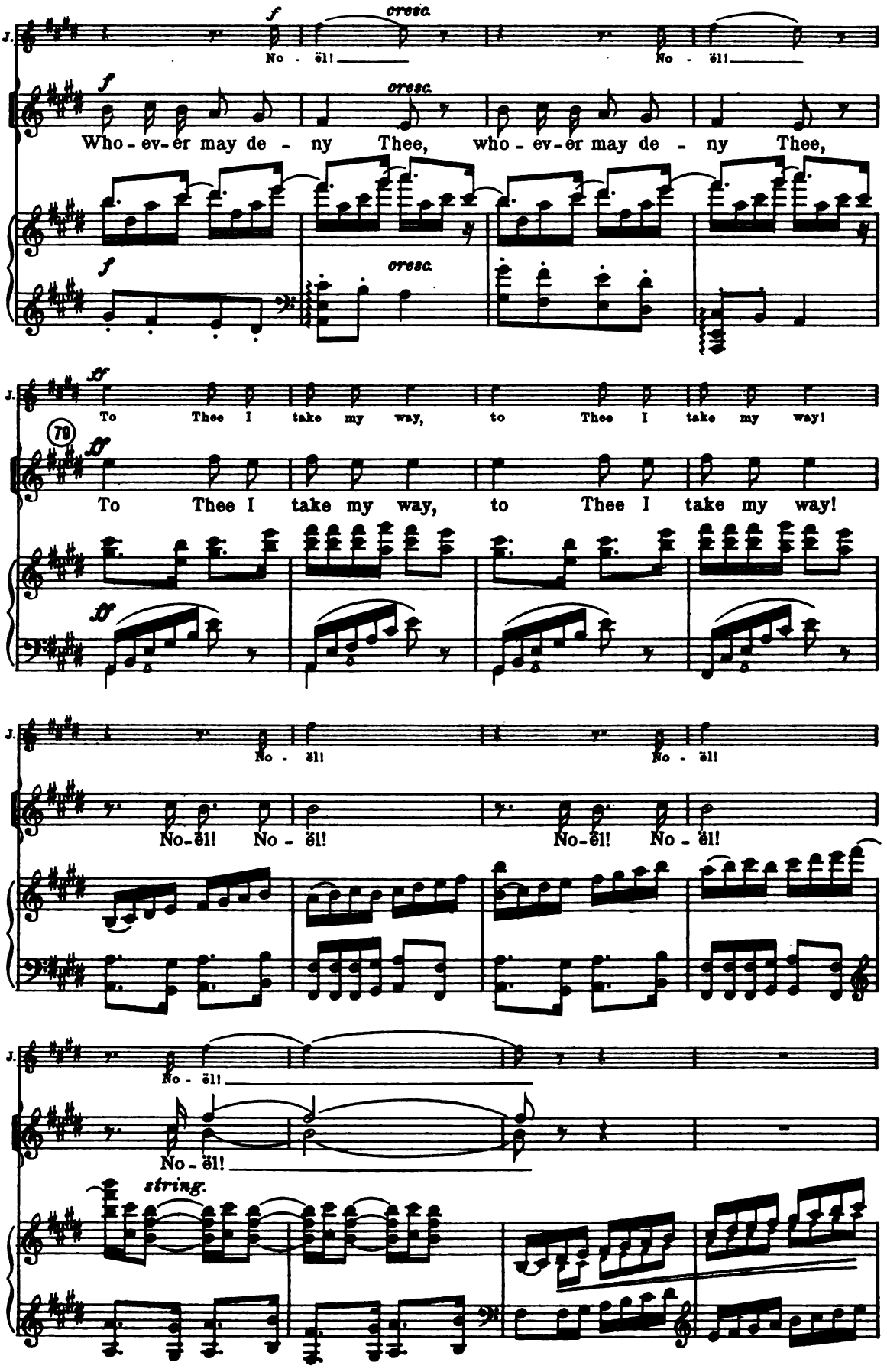
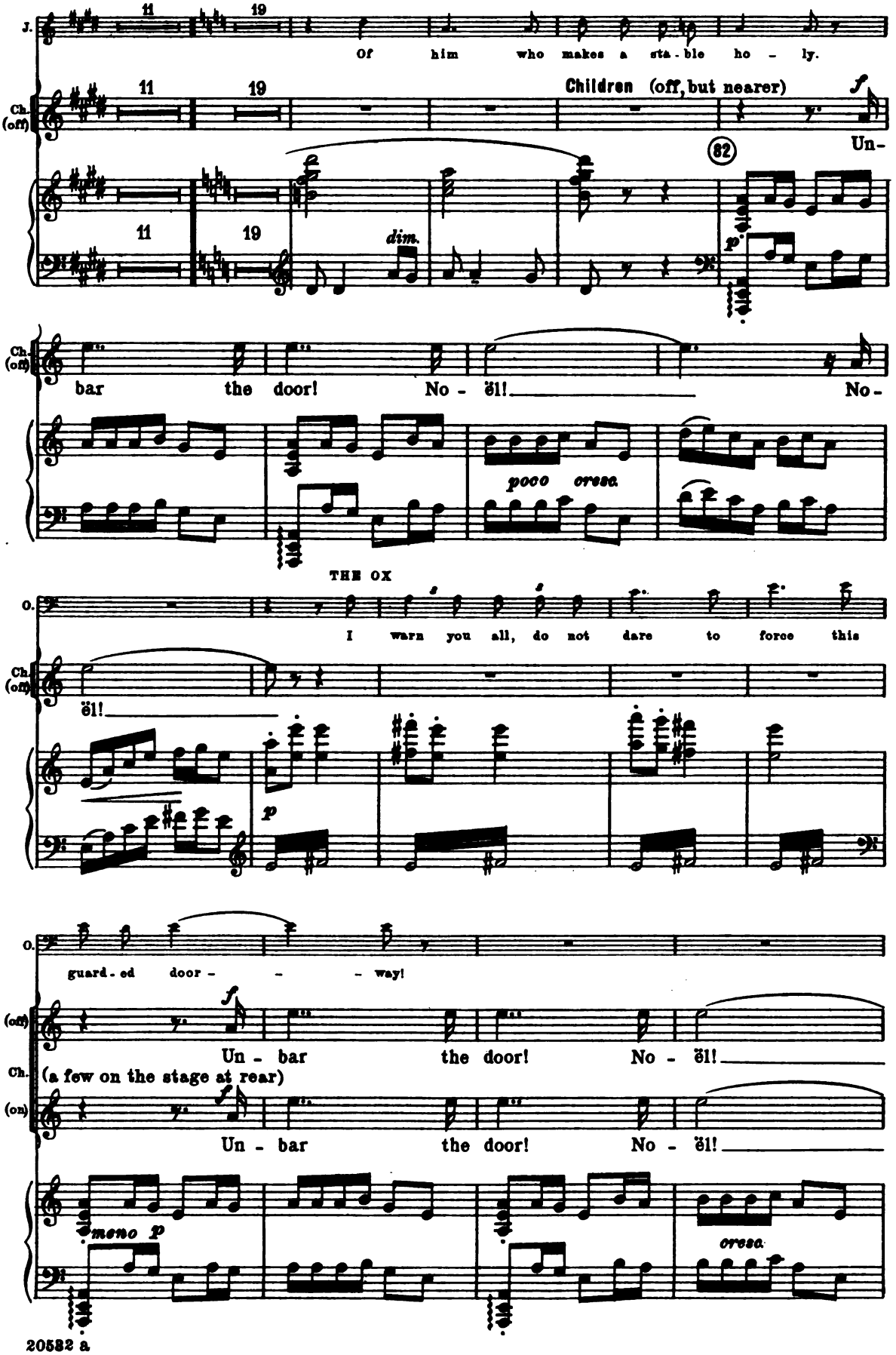
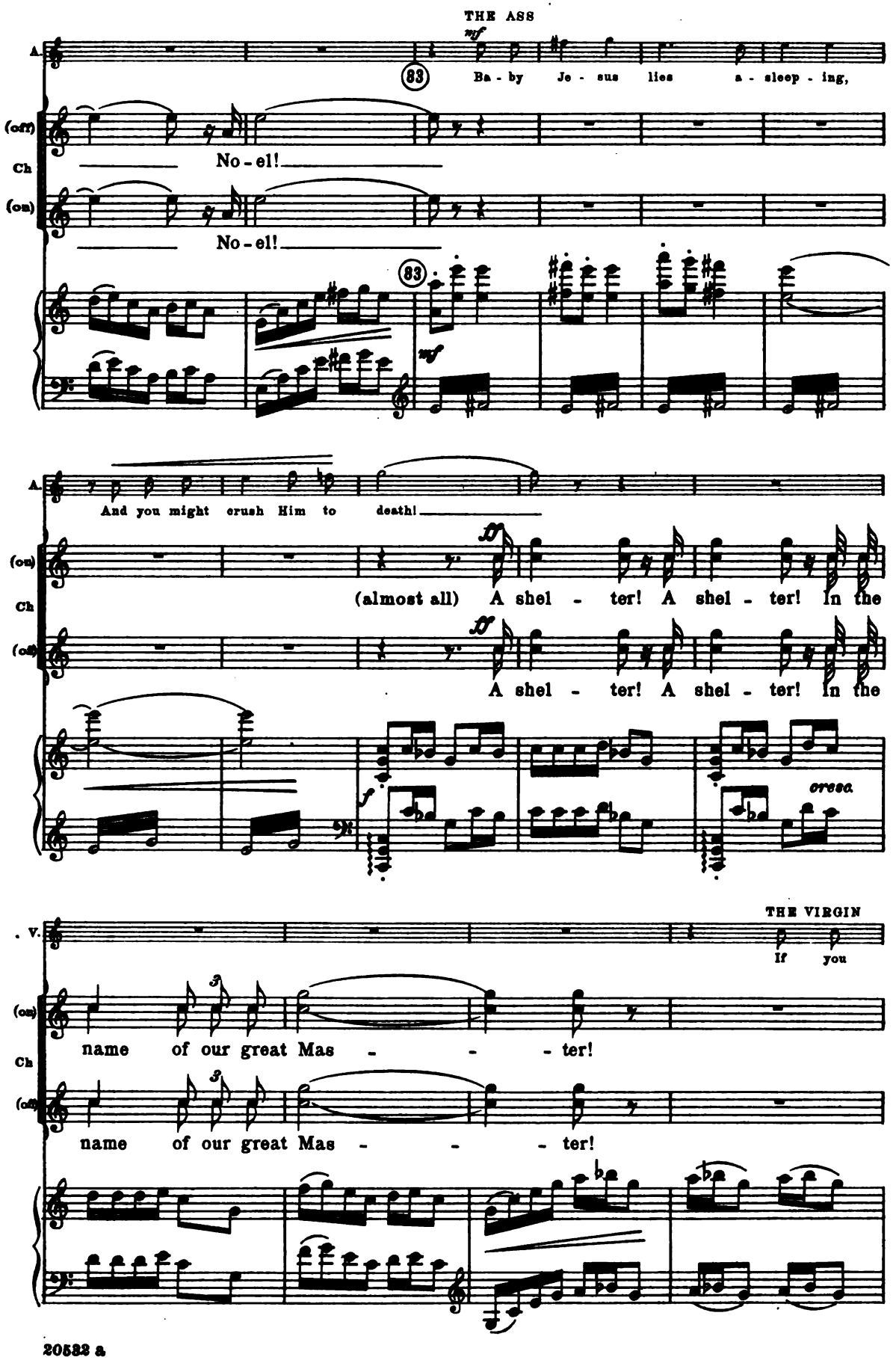
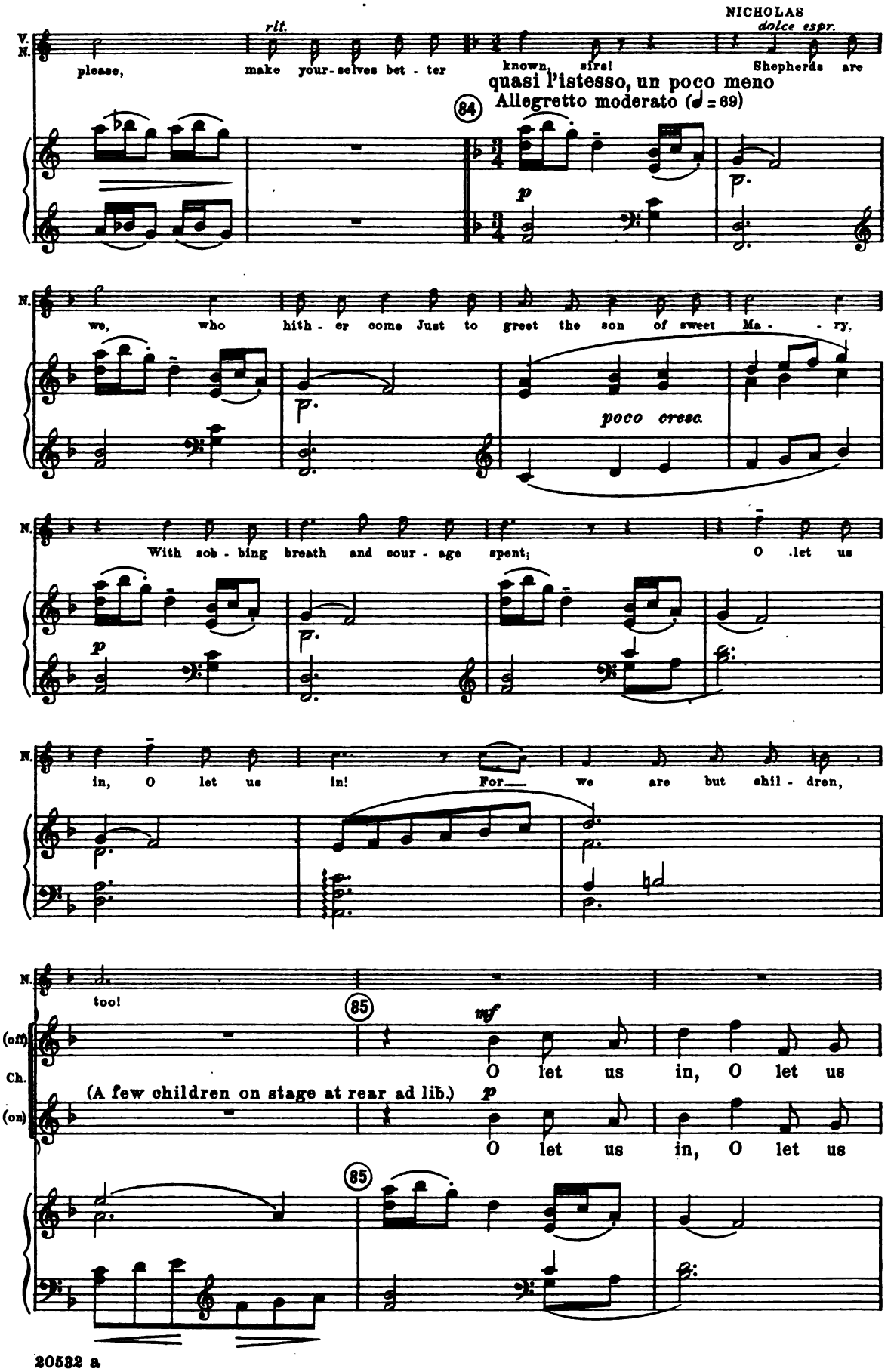
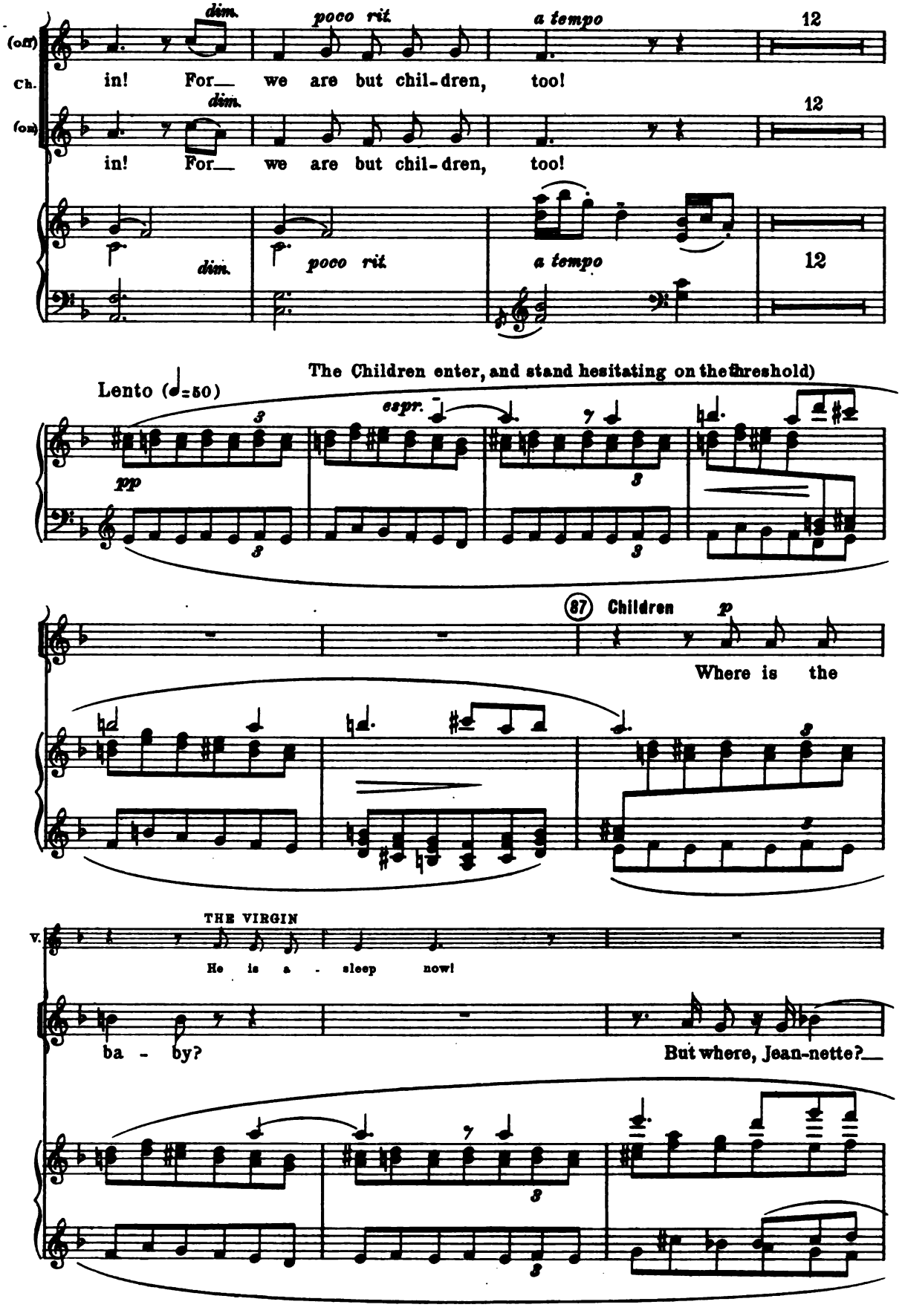
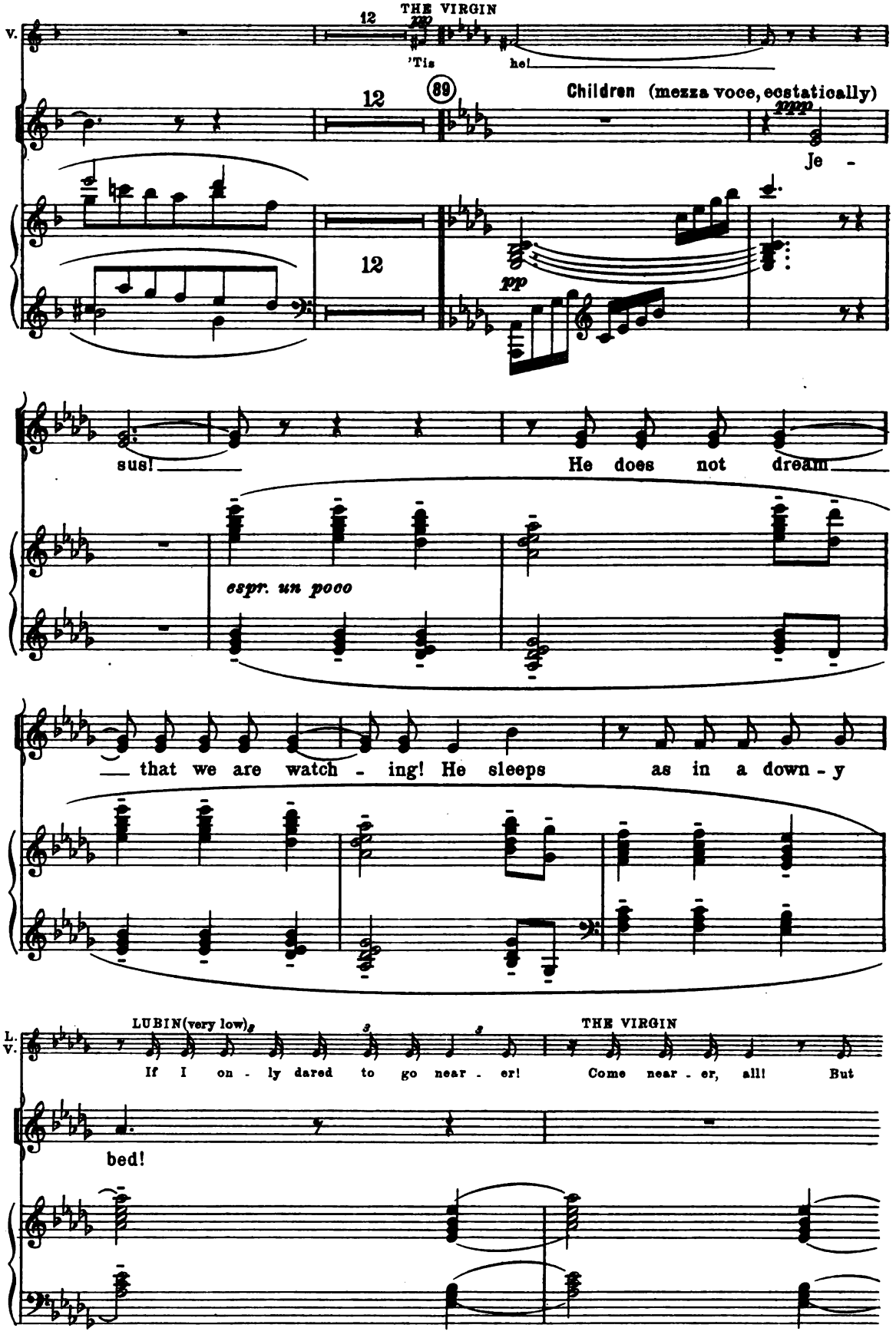
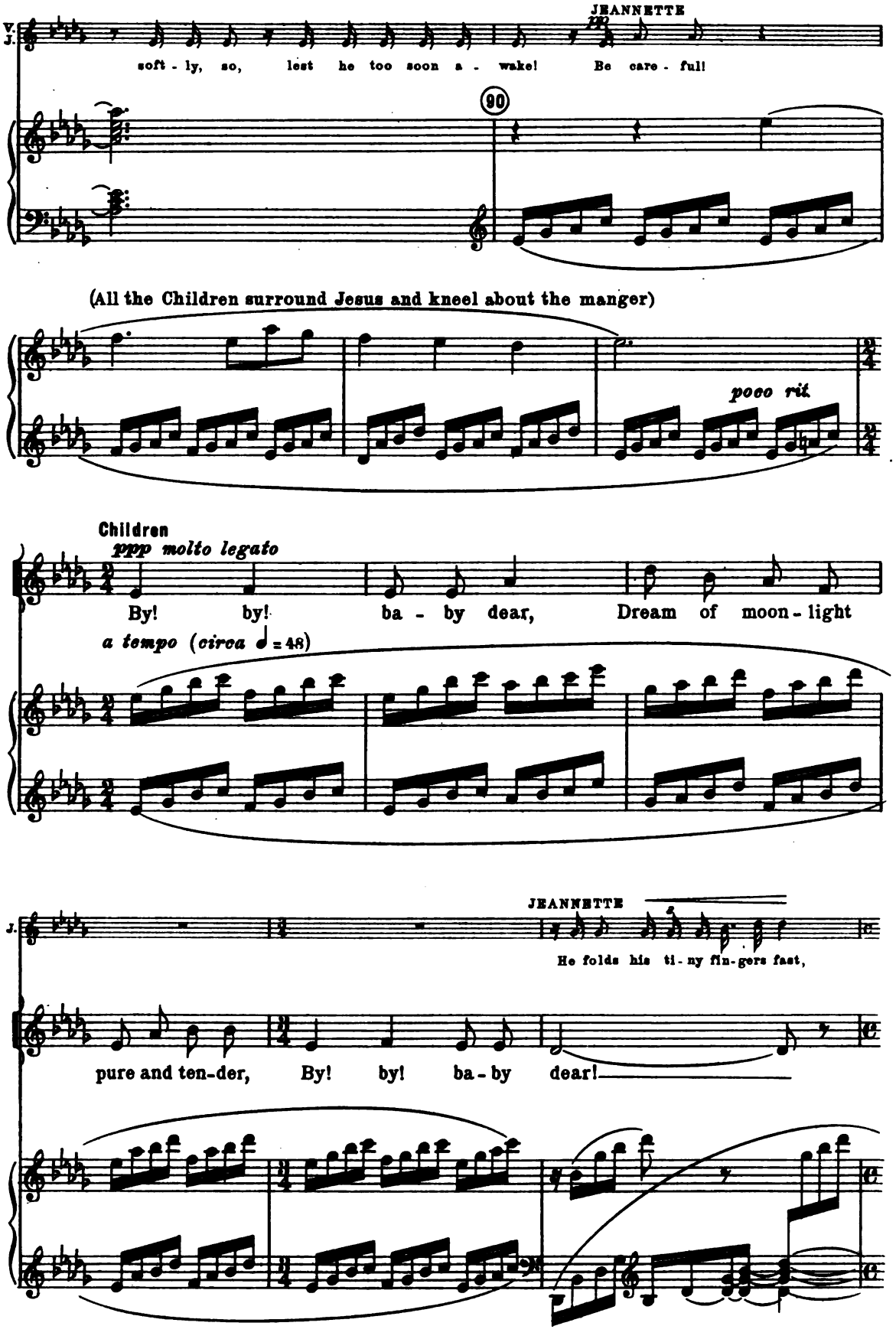

J.
der!
26
a tempo
All (trembling, pressing close to one another)
p
a tempo
We brave the cold and the north - wind, Be it
THE STAR
S.
Be - - hold! to His
blow - ing low or high!
poco
S.
own He com - - - - eth, For
S.
them on the cross to die!
ppp (like a lament)
Ah!

LUBIN
21
to clasp it in my arms!
29
Children
We
poch. rit.
a tempo
21
THE STAR
Love - ly Voice! how sad and how ten - Be -
brave the cold and the north-wind, Be it blow - ing low or high!
dim.
hold! to His own He com - - - eth, For
them on the cross to die!
ppp
Ah!
(𝅗𝅥=𝅗𝅥) poco rit.
p calmo

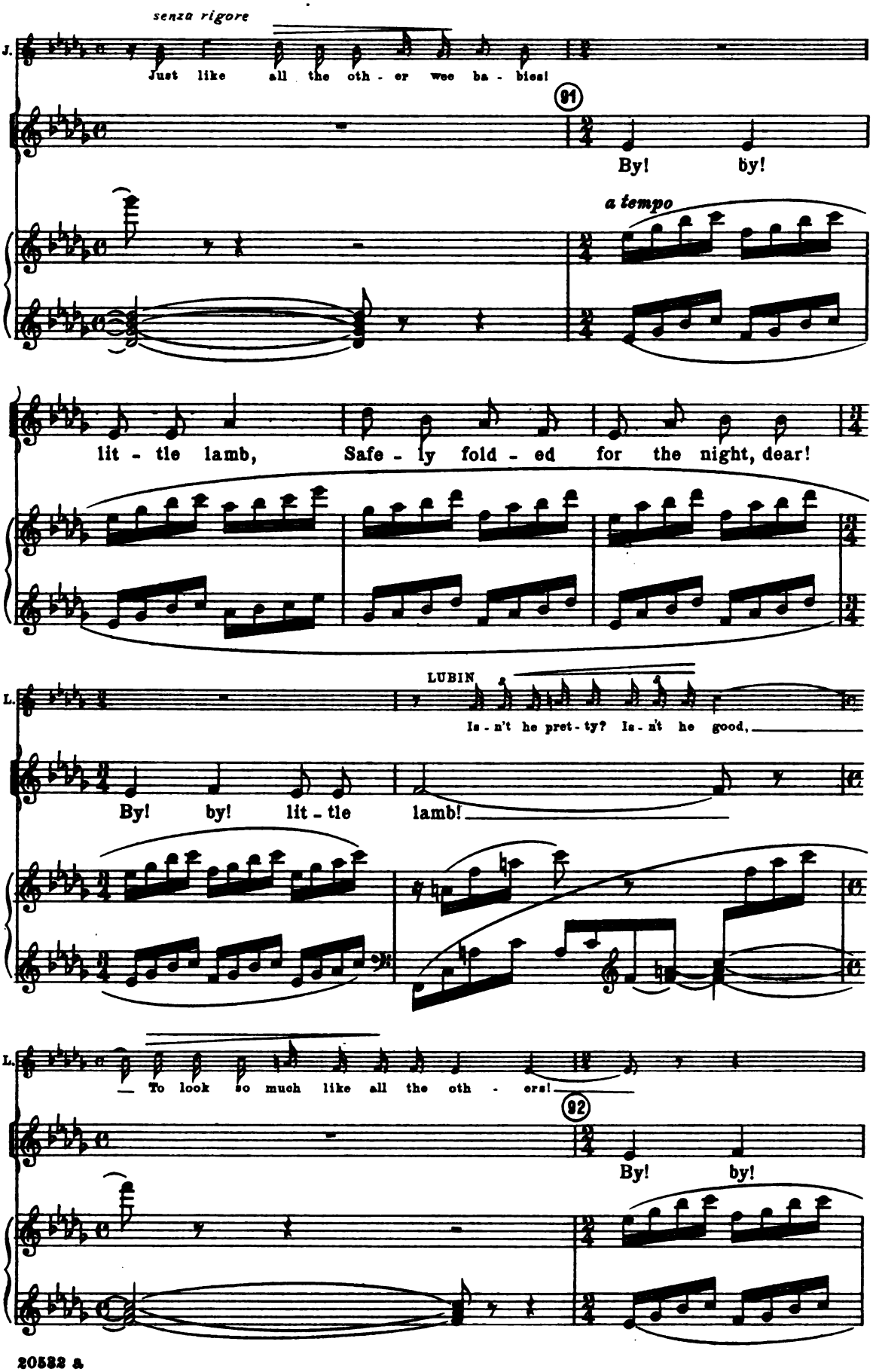
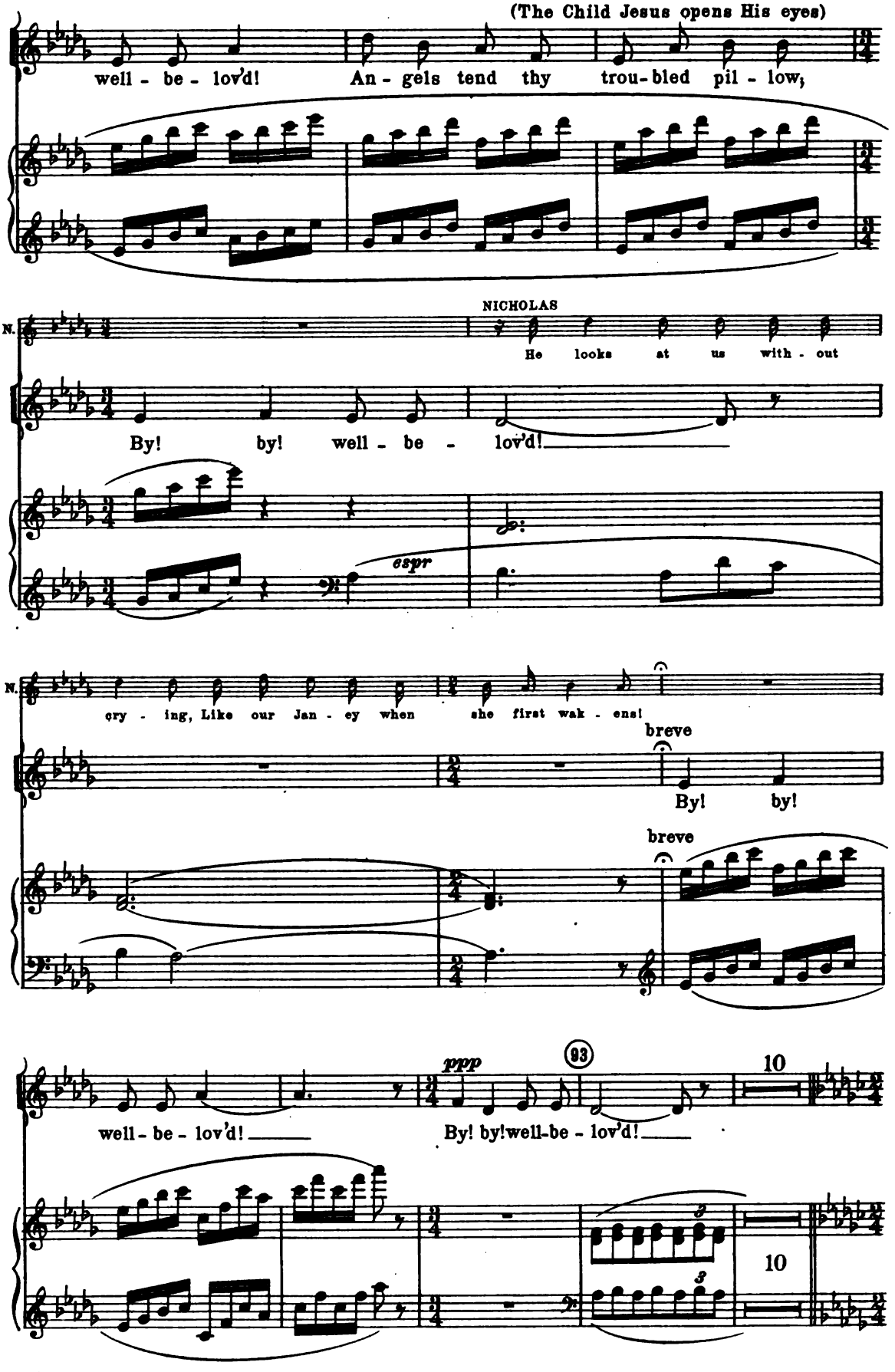
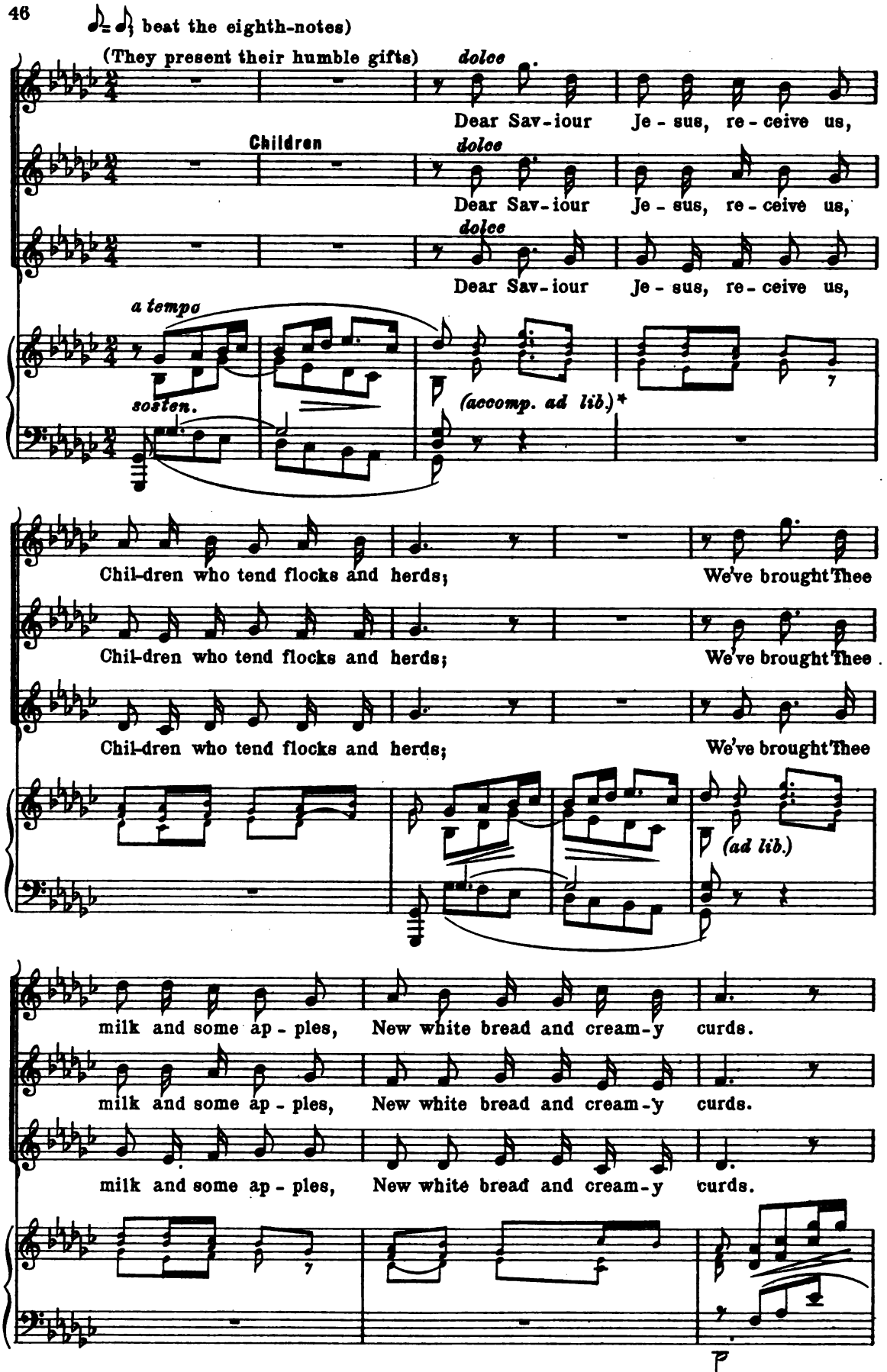

J.
der!
26
a tempo
All (trembling, pressing close to one another)
p
a tempo
We brave the cold and the north - wind, Be it
S.
THE STAR
Be - - hold! to His
blow - ing low or high!
poco
S.
own He com - - - - eth, For
S.
them on the cross to die!
ppp (like a lament)
Ah!

21
LUBIN
to clasp it in my
29
arms!
Children
We
poch. rit.
a tempo
21
THE STAR
Love - ly Voice! how sad and how ten - Be -
brave the cold and the north-wind, Be it blow - ing low or high!
dim.
hold! to His own He com - - - - eth, For
them on the cross to die!
ppp
Ah!
(d = d) poco rit.
p calmo

J.
19
JEANNETTE
A - las! how sad!
19
Children (Group I)
31
p espr.
I see the lit-tle lights of the
19
espr.
L.
LUBIN
I see the lights of the town,
Gioioso (ritmato)
vil - lage, Where our dear moth - er waits for us!
mf
L.
cresc.
Where our dear moth - er waits for us!
Children (Group I and part of Group II)
f ben ritmato
Broth - er dear, the ta - ble is spread!
cresc.
f
ff
Supper's read-y, we shall be fed!
Supper's read-y, we shall be fed!
ff

LUBIN
L.
I am no long- - - -er hun- - -gry,
(gaily)
(The rest of Group II)
In my fa-ther's field Chan-ti-cleers are three, In my fa-ther's field
32
L.
I thirst no more!
We brave the cold and the north-wind, Be it
cresc.
Chan-ti-cleers are three! Be it
cresc.
L.
Jean-nette! Ni-cho-las! O, I am
blow-ing low or high!
blow-ing low or high!

L.
hap- -py! am hap- -py, And yet am I
In my fa - ther's fold Three white lamb's there be, In my fa - ther's fold
33
fain to weep! Ah! be it
cresc.
Group I
We brave the cold and the north-wind, Be it
Group II
Three white lambs there be. We brave the cold and the north-wind, Be it
cresc.
L.
S.
blow- -ing low or high! Be - hold! now the Sav- -iour
THE STAR (slowly and with majesty)
blow - ing low or high!
blow - ing low or high!
Un poco allarg. (ma poco)
34

S.
com - eth, For you on the cross to die!
All (almost shouted)
ff
No-ël! No-ël! No-
35
a tempo
ff ben ritmato
ël! No-ël!
128
(The Children go into their homes)
128
J.
JEANNETTE mf deciso
Yes! We must wak- -en, must
Allegro (♩.=132)
ritmato
p
J.
fol- -low! Up! a - rise!
f
Children mf deciso
Yes! We must wak - en, must fol - low!
mf
ff

J.
mf
Fa - ther! Moth - er! Un - bar the door- -way!
Up! a - rise! Up! and make no de-lay!
45
cresc.
tf
J.
cresc.
Up! and make no de - lay!
f
Our dear
mf
Fa - ther! Moth - er! Un-bar the door - way!
f
J.
broth - er waits for us! A - rise! Up!
Come! Rise! Fol - low! Our dear broth - er
tf
J.
mf
Rise! Fol- -low! Why rush a - bout in pan - ic so!
waits for us! A - rise!
46
tf

J.
The lit - tle Christ-Child suf - fers so!
J.
N.
NICHOLAS
Nich - o - las, bring thy warm, new man- -tle! Sis- -ter,
p
N.
J.
JEANNETTE
no! No! 'Tis not worth the trou- -ble. The babe has
47
espr.
J.
naught to keep Him warm.
Children (a few)
The babe has naught to keep Him warm.

NICHOLAS
N.
To Je - sus I'll car - ry, in hom- -age true, A new
espr.
N.
J.
gold- -en loaf of our sweet white bread! I'll car - ry to
JEANNETTE
48
J.
Je - sus my whit- -est lamb!
(a few)
(others)
(others)
My ap - ples! Some nuts! Some
L.
LUBIN (naïvely and tenderly)
(still others)
A fond heart a - lone have I. (A -
milk! And our chees-es!
leggeriss.

L.
las, por - tion slen-der!) A fond heart a - lone have I, Grate - ful praise to
L.
S.
THE STAR
mf
ren - der! Oh shep- - -herd, let thy weep - ing cease!
49
breviss.
ff
p
S.
The Lord bids them come to Him!
All the Children
dolce espress.
I'll car - ry to
50
dolce espress.
Je - sus, in hom - age true, A new gold - en loaf of our sweet white

bread! I'll car - ry to Je - sus my whit-est lamb, My ap - ples,some
p
p
dim.
poco rit.
51
a tempo
10
nuts, my homage to ren- -der!
dim.
poco rit.
a tempo
f
10
N.
8
NICHOLAS
O look! see! see, lit-tle Net-ta!
52
53
8
p
Children
p
Look, how proud-ly they march to the mu- -sic!

LUBIN
mf
L.
54
They are com - ing!
Here they
un poco rinf.
poco a poco cresc.
L.
J.
are!
f
Here they are!
29
4
JEANNETTE
mf
O, splen - did
58
29
4
mf
J.
pa - geant!
Chil-dren, watch it!
See the cam - els, drom-e - dar - ies
J.
al - so, And mon - keys a-stride of them all!
Children (Gr. I)
mf
Ho! See the first with on-ly
59
20532 a

(Gr. II)
mf
(Gr. I)
f
one hump! Look! look at the fourth, he has two! Hi!
ff
ff
N.
NICHOLAS
f espr.
See!
p (Gr. II)
bears! How fierce their little eyes are! Do not let them come too near to you!
ff
p
cresc.
N.
cresc.
See! Be-neath his tin-sel trap- -ings, Pur-ple, or-ange, red, blue and
N.
yel- -low. See, he comes! The el - e-phant comes!
poco
a
poco

60
Children (all)
f
See how kind and gentle he is, tho'! How he toils a-long with his pack!
f
I wish I might just climb on his shoulder, Stroke him soft-ly o-ver his back!
61
(♩=60)
f
JEANNETTE
f
Ho! the mu-si-clans
(Lasciate andare il movimento)
f
sempre cresc.

J.
come! The flutes, yes tam - bou rines - too! And the
J.
king, as black as a crow! Yes, and the drum! And the
Ho! the flutes and the
62 Animando (♩=84)
J.
cym - bals! O see! There they
cym - bals, Ho! the tam - bou - rines and the
J.
go!
cresc.
No - ëll No -
cresc.
ket-tle-drums! O, how it sounds! how it shines! It is glo - -rious!

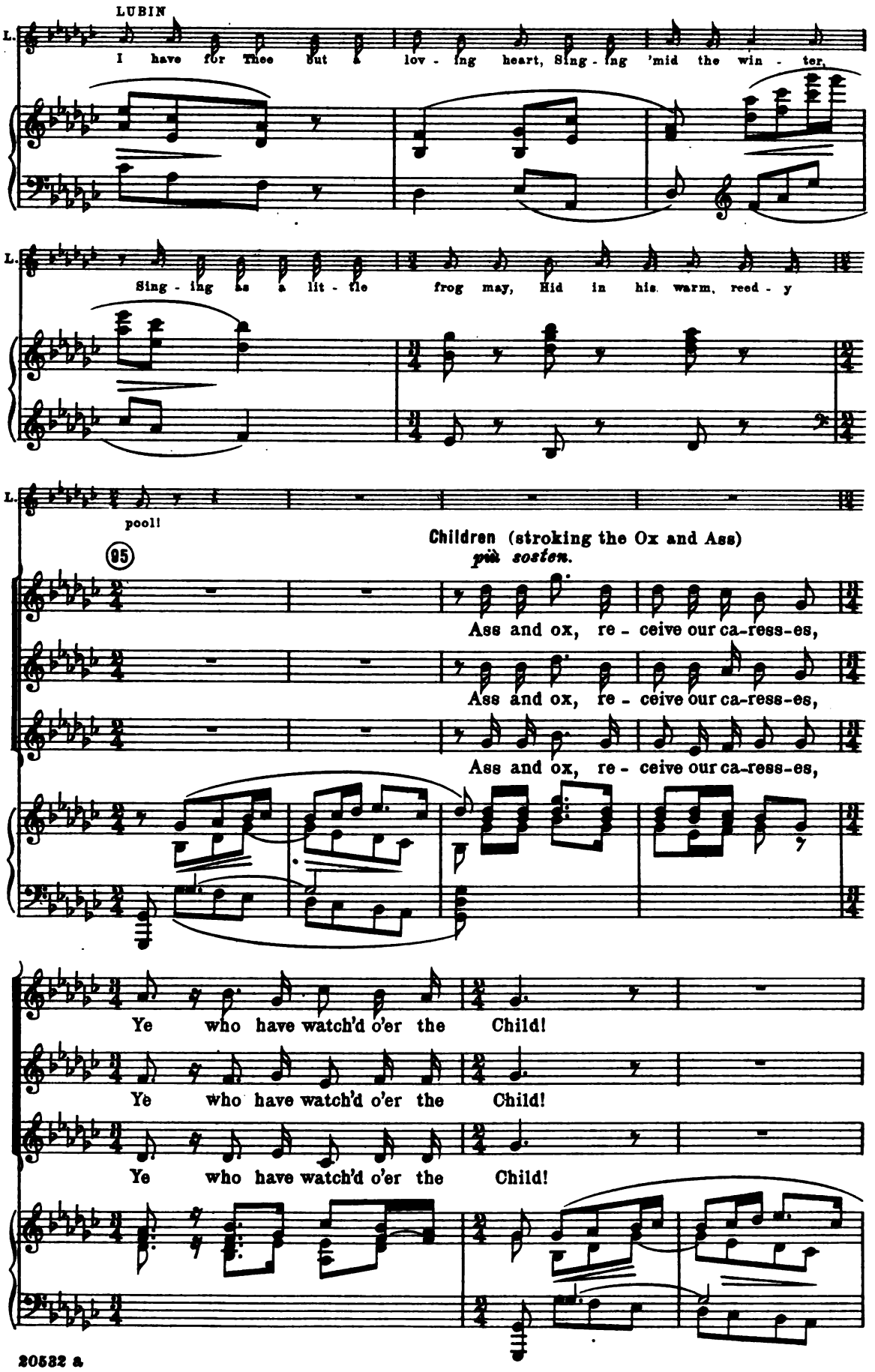
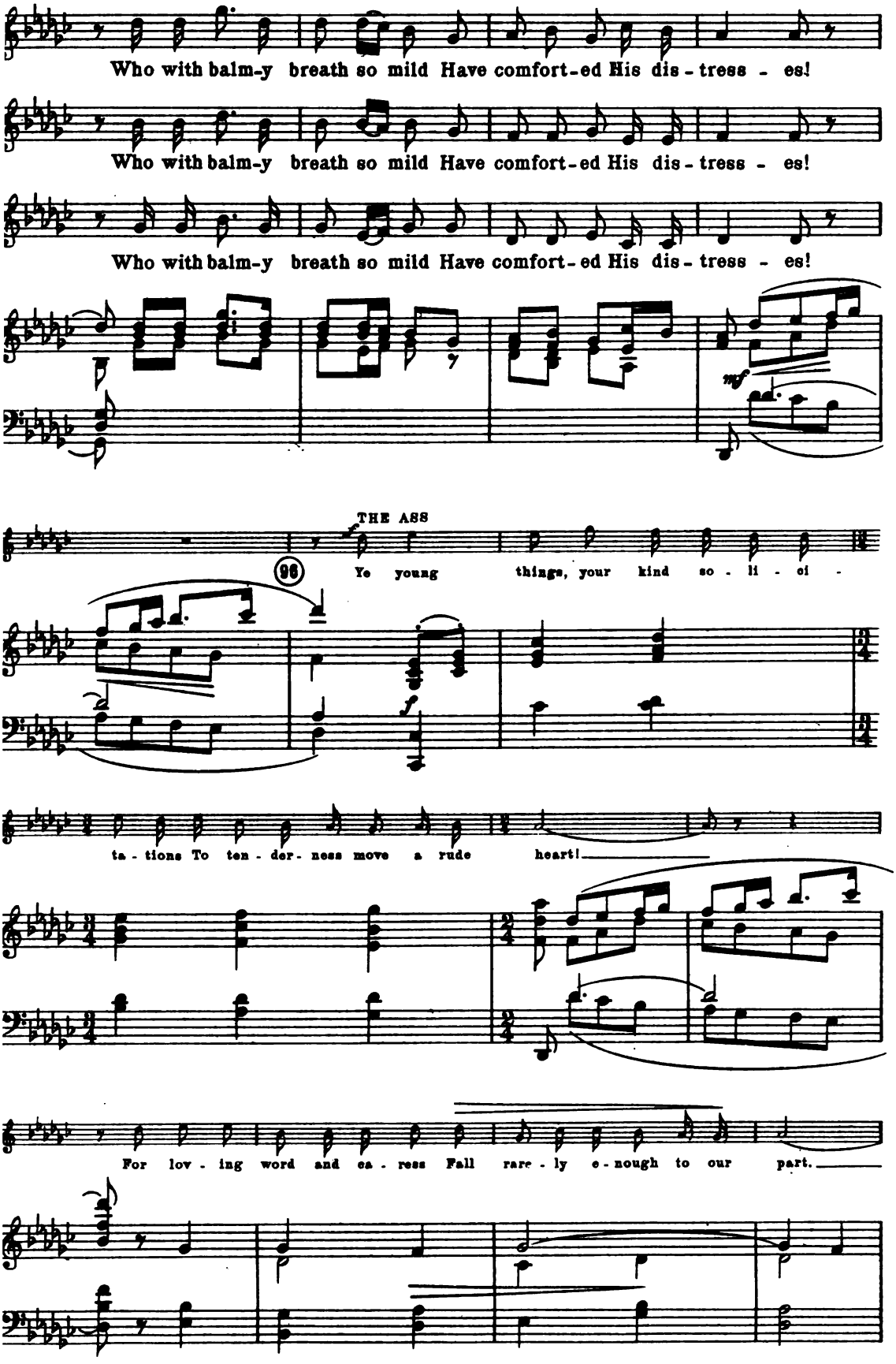
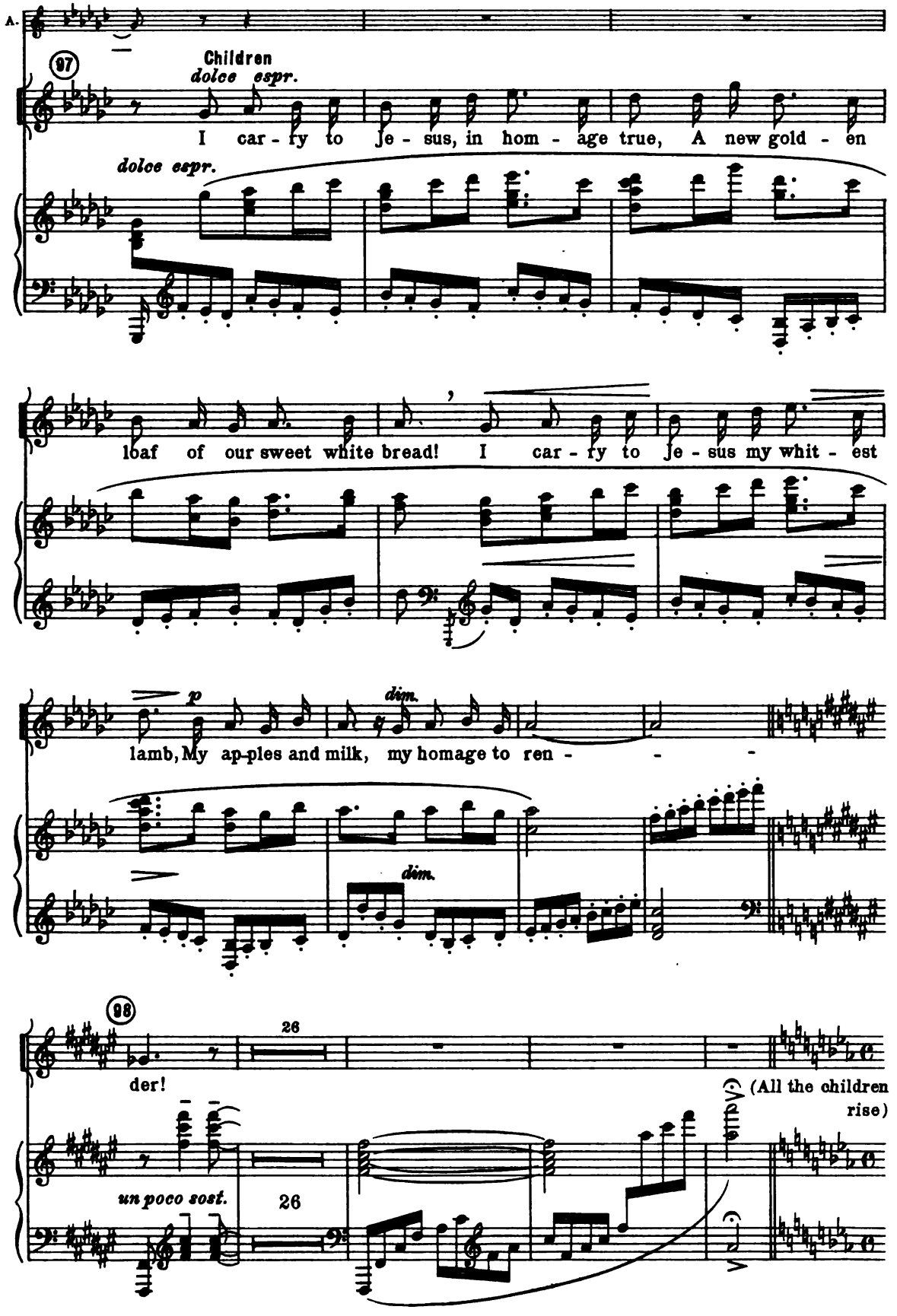

J.
ël!
No - ël!
No -
Ho! O, how it sounds! how it shines! O look!
J.
ff
ël!
No - - - ël!
poco rit.
(marching and singing)
ff
Where a-way, fond and fear-less? Where a-way,
poco rit.
63
Allegro (♩=100)
molto
ff
foot-ing free? To the manger I go, My dear broth-er Je-sus
meno f
seek-ing! Babe so sweet, babe so dear, Why art Thou cradled here?
meno f

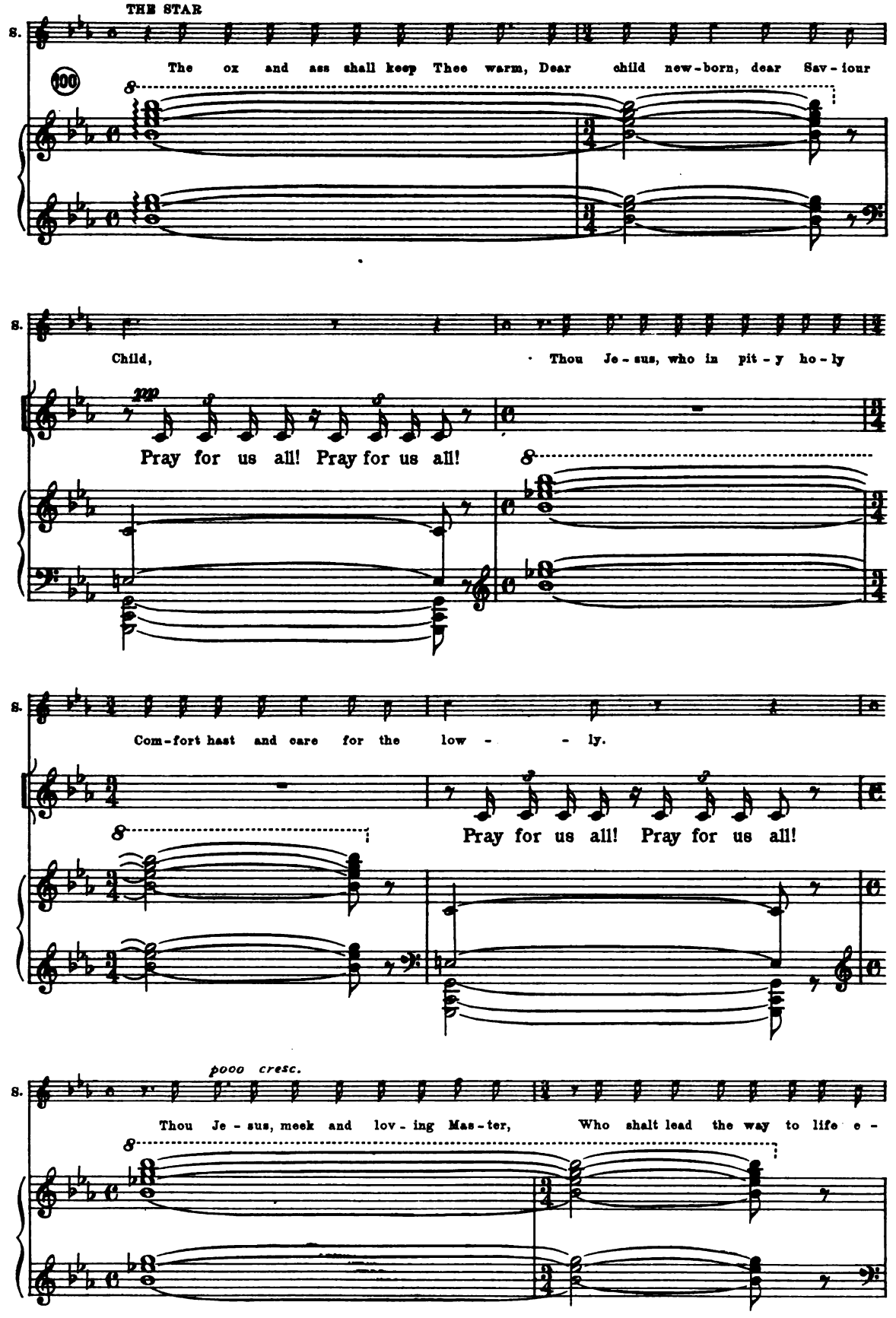

64
ff
Who - ev - er may de - ny Thee, To Thee I take my way!
Who - ev - er may de - ny Thee, To Thee I take my way!
THE STAR
S.
No - ël! No - ël! No - ël!
con entusiasmo
We brave the cold and the north-wind,
65 un poco allargando (♩=76)
S.
No - ël! No - ël! No - ël!
Let him blow low_ or high!

ben declamando, senza rigore
ff
S.
Be - hold, now the Sav - iour
56
colla parte
S.
com- -eth, For you on the cross to
S.
die!
ff
No-ël! No-ël! No - ël! No-ël!
Allegro risoluto (♩=126)
ff
Largo
lunghiss.

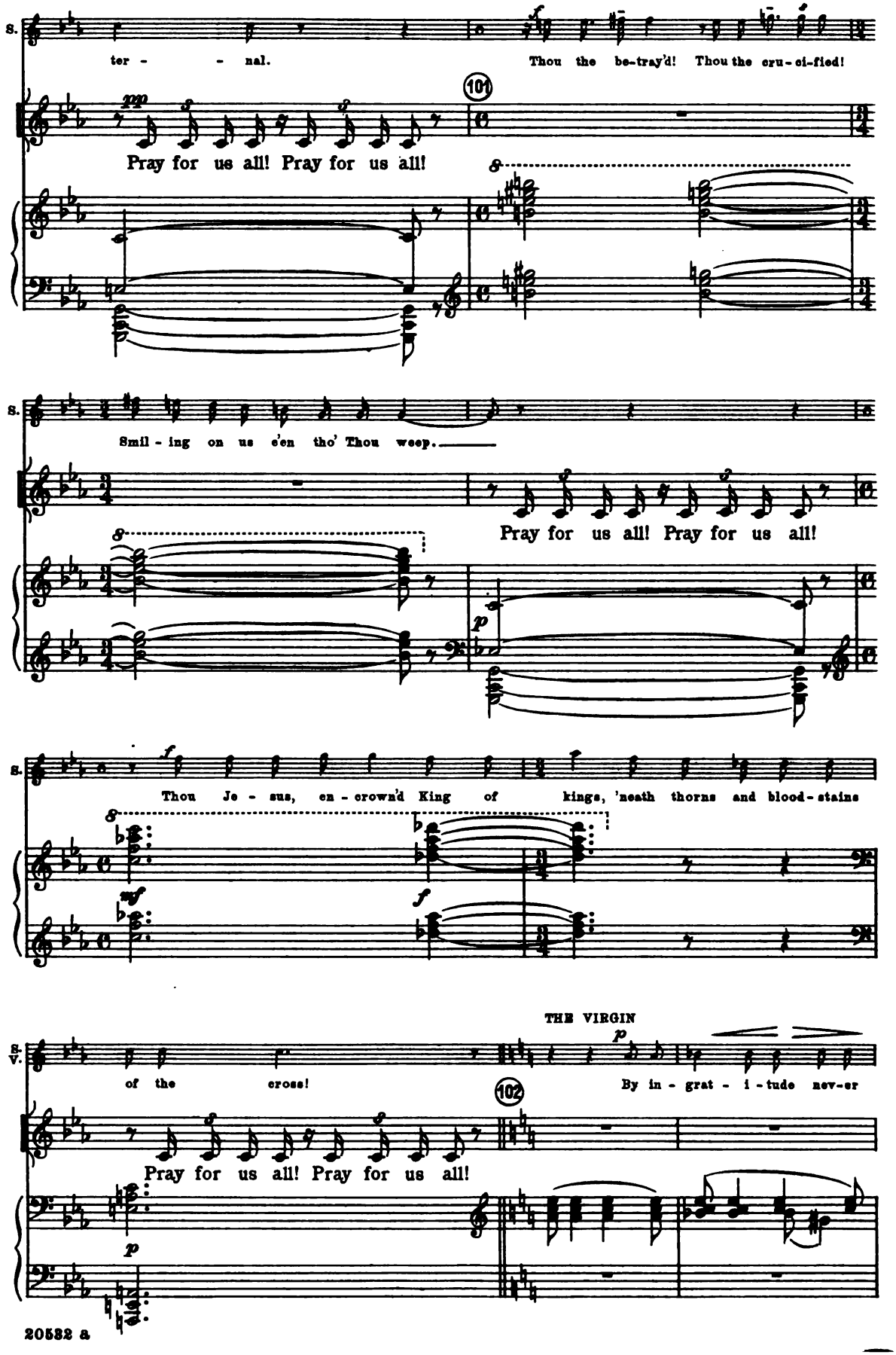
Part II

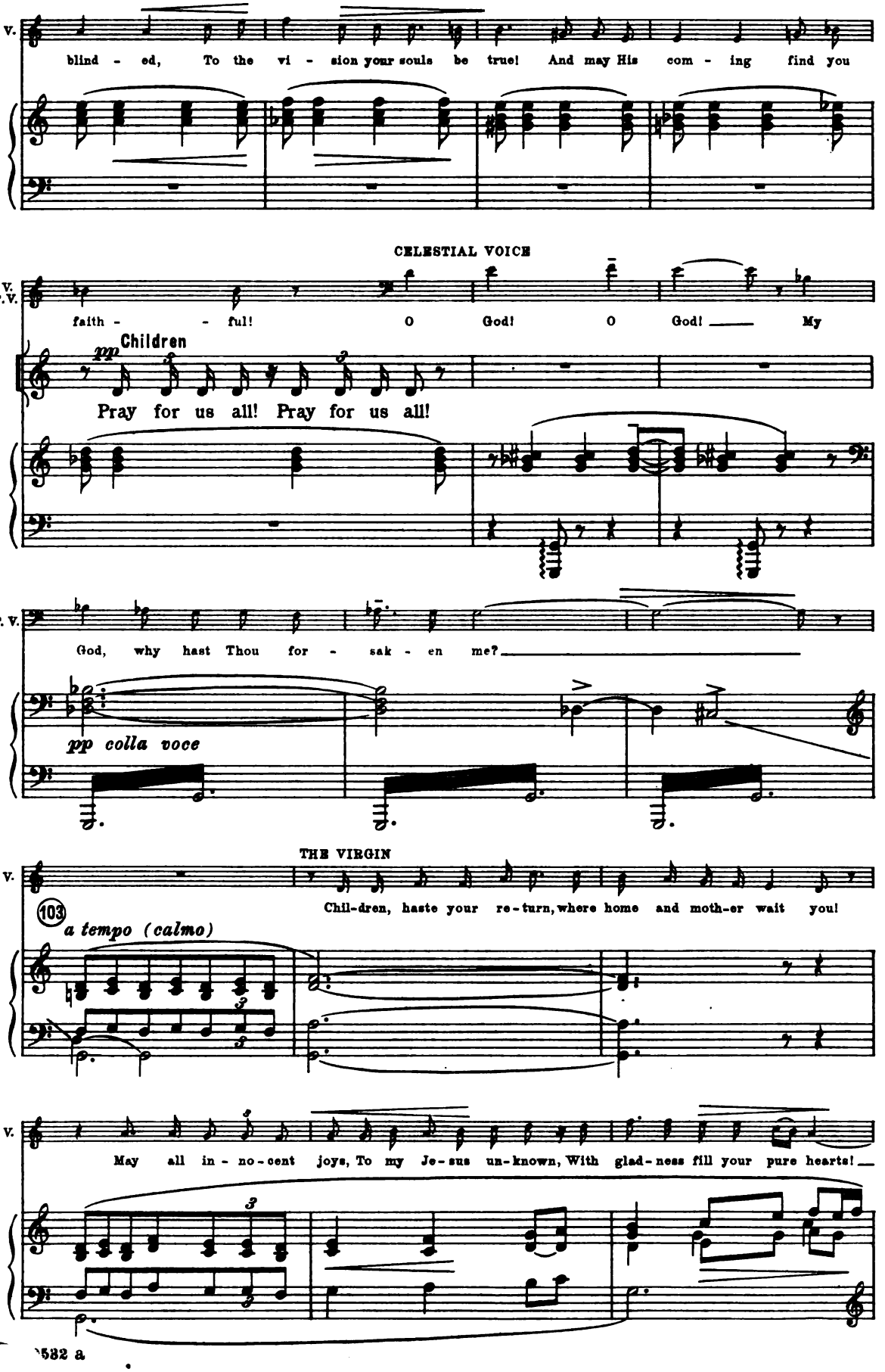
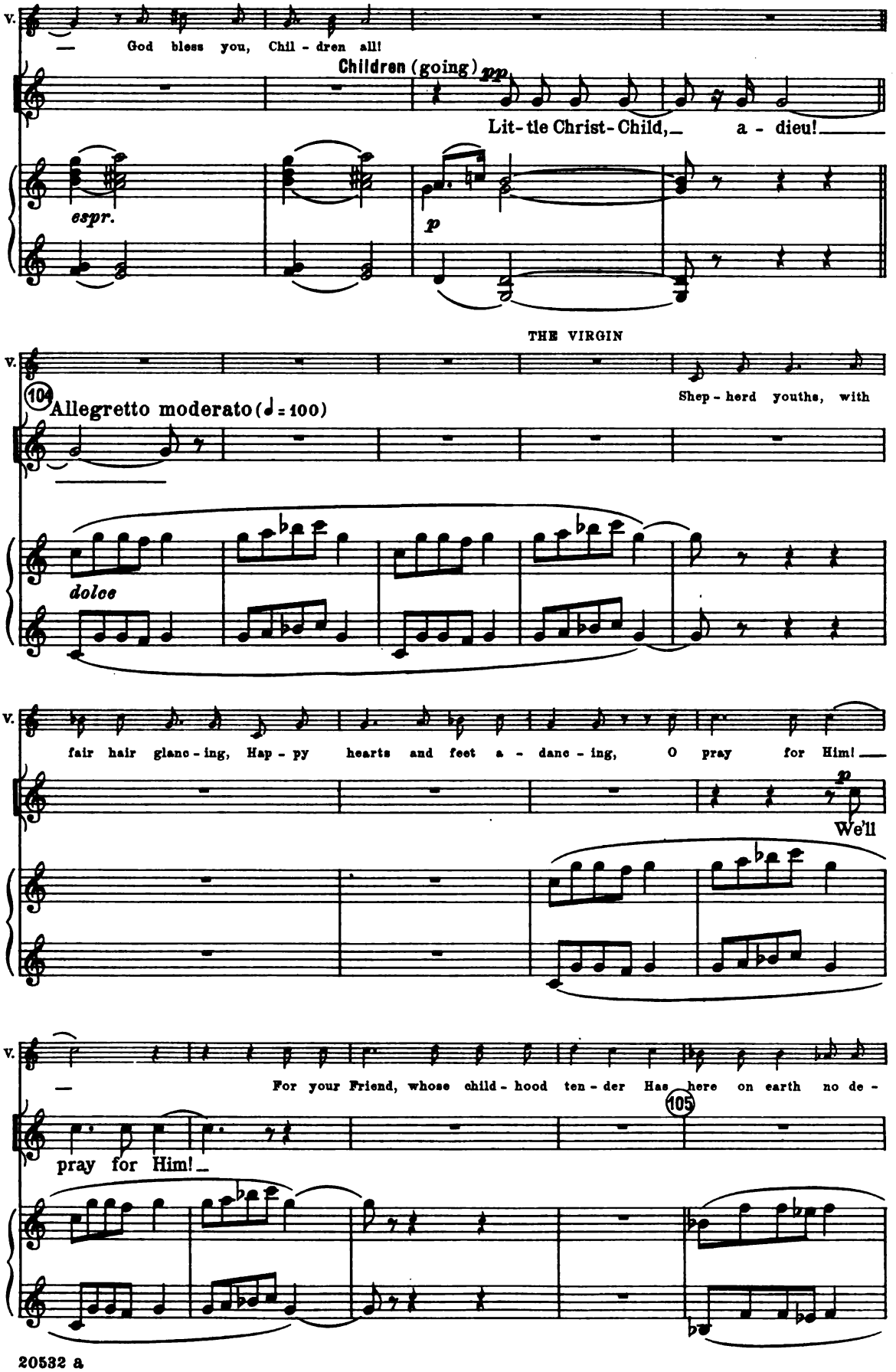
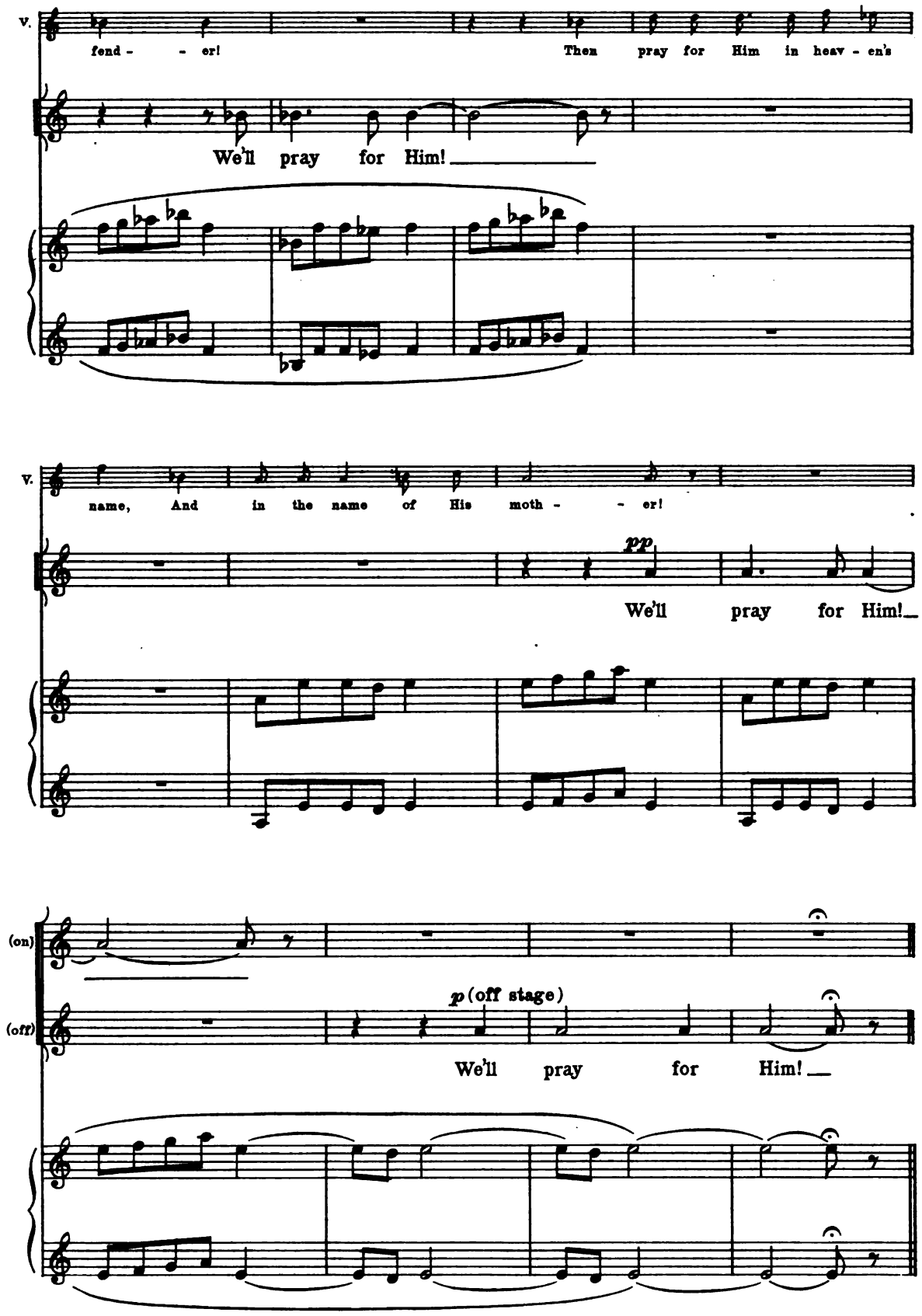
The Stable

THE VIRGIN
V.
Do I hear, far a - cross the night, The voic - es of chil - dren
74
h.
m.
seek - - - - ing!
V.
A.
sing - ing?
THE ASS
Not a doubt, but they
Ch.
off
Babe so sweet, babe so dear, Why art Thou cradled here?
A.
make hur - ly - bur - ly and noise!
75
(nearer)
Ch.
off
Who - ev - er may de - ny Thee, To Thee I
cresc.
take my way, Who - ev - er may de - ny Thee, To Thee I take my way!
cresc.
f

Ch. (or)
poco rall.
dim.
(The movement is, however, a little more animated here than in the corresponding passage in Part I)
O.
THE OX
See! Three lords ap - proach, my broth - er,
76 Meno allegro (♩ = 72)
p ritmato
O.
With shoes of sil - ver, robes of gold!
Ch. (on)
The Children
p (a few, from back)
Where a-way, fond and fearless?
(♩ = 80)
A.
THE ASS p
poco cresc.
Look! what curious beasts, as
Ch. (on)
Where a - way, foot - ing free?
poco cresc.

A.
well! They've lost their way, I am think - - - ing.
77
mf
To the sta - ble I
Lasciato andare il movimente
JEANNETTE
cresc.
Babe so sweet, babe so
go, My dear broth - er Je-sus seek - - - - ing. Babe so
dear, Why art Thou cra - dled here! So sweet and so
sweet, babe so dear, Why art Thou cra-dled here?

J.
dear! No - öl! No -
Ch. (on)
Who - ev-er may de - ny Thee, who-ev-er may de - ny Thee!
J.
78
öl! Where a - way, fond and fear - less?
(All)
Where a-way, fond and fear-less? Where a-way, footing free? To the
(♩=100)
J.
To the man - ger I go, My dear broth - er Je - sus seek - ing. Babe so
p espr.
man-ger I go, My dear broth-er Je-sus seek-ing. Babe so
p
J.
cresc.
sweet, babe so dear, Why art Thou cra - dled here?
cresc.
sweet, babe so dear, Why art Thou cra-dled here?
cresc.

f
cresc.
No - ël!
No - ël!
Who - ev - er may de - ny Thee, who - ev - er may de - ny Thee,
ff
To Thee I take my way, to Thee I take my way!
78
No-ël! No - ël! No-ël! No - ël!
string.

J.
11
19
Of him who makes a sta - ble ho - ly.
Ch. (off)
Children (off, but nearer)
f
Un-
82
dim.
p
bar the door! No - ël! No -
poco cresc.
THE OX
O.
I warn you all, do not dare to force this
ël!
p
guard - ed door - - - way!
(off)
Un - bar the door! No - ël!
Ch.
(a few on the stage at rear)
(on)
Un - bar the door! No - ël!
meno p
cresc.

THE ASS
A.
(off)
Ch
(on)
Ba - by Je - sus lies a - sleep - ing,
No - el!
No - el!
And you might crush Him to death!
(on)
Ch
(off)
(almost all) A shel - ter! A shel - ter! In the
A shel - ter! A shel - ter! In the
cresc.
THE VIRGIN
V.
If you
(on)
Ch
(off)
name of our great Mas - - - ter!
name of our great Mas - - - ter!

NICHOLAS
dolce espr.
V.
N.
rit.
please, make your-selves bet - ter known, sirs! Shepherds are
quasi l'istesso, un poco meno
Allegretto moderato (♩ = 69)
84
p
we, who hith - er come Just to greet the son of sweet Ma - - ry,
poco cresc.
With sob - bing breath and cour - age spent; O let us
in, O let us in! For— we are but chil - dren,
too!
85
mf
(off)
Ch.
(on)
O let us in, O let us
(A few children on stage at rear ad lib.)
p
O let us in, O let us
85

(off)
Ch.
(on)
dim.
poco rit.
a tempo
12
in! For— we are but chil-dren, too!
The Children enter, and stand hesitating on the threshold)
Lento (♩=50)
espr.
pp
87
Children
p
Where is the
THE VIRGIN
V.
He is a - sleep now!
ba - by?
But where, Jean-nette?—

V.
THE VIRGIN
12
pp
'Tis he!
12
89
Children (mezza voce, ecstatically)
ppp
Je -
12
pp
sus!
He does not dream
espr. un poco
— that we are watch - ing! He sleeps as in a down - y
L.
V.
LUBIN(very low)
If I on - ly dared to go near - er!
THE VIRGIN
Come near - er, all! But
bed!

V.
J.
JEANNETTE
soft - ly, so, lest he too soon a - wake! Be care - ful!
90
(All the Children surround Jesus and kneel about the manger)
poco rit.
Children
ppp molto legato
By! by! ba - by dear, Dream of moon - light
a tempo (circa ♩ = 48)
JEANNETTE
He folds his ti - ny fin - gers fast,
pure and ten - der, By! by! ba - by dear!


senza rigore
J.
Just like all the oth - er wee ba - bies!
91
By! by!
a tempo
lit - tle lamb, Safe - ly fold - ed for the night, dear!
LUBIN
L.
Is - n't he pret - ty? Is - n't he good,
By! by! lit - tle lamb!
L.
To look so much like all the oth - ers!
92
By! by!

(The Child Jesus opens His eyes)
well - be - lov'd! An - gels tend thy trou-bled pil - low,
NICHOLAS
N.
He looks at us with - out
By! by! well - be - lov'd!
espr
N.
cry - ing, Like our Jan - ey when she first wak - ens!
breve
By! by!
breve
ppp
93
10
well - be - lov'd!
By! by! well-be - lov'd!
3
3
10

(♪ = ♪ beat the eighth-notes)
(They present their humble gifts)
dolce
Dear Sav-iour Je-sus, re-ceive us,
Children
dolce
Dear Sav-iour Je-sus, re-ceive us,
dolce
Dear Sav-iour Je-sus, re-ceive us,
a tempo
sosten.
(accomp. ad lib.)*
Chil-dren who tend flocks and herds; We've brought Thee
Chil-dren who tend flocks and herds; We've brought Thee
Chil-dren who tend flocks and herds; We've brought Thee
(ad lib.)
milk and some ap-ples, New white bread and cream-y curds.
milk and some ap-ples, New white bread and cream-y curds.
milk and some ap-ples, New white bread and cream-y curds.
p

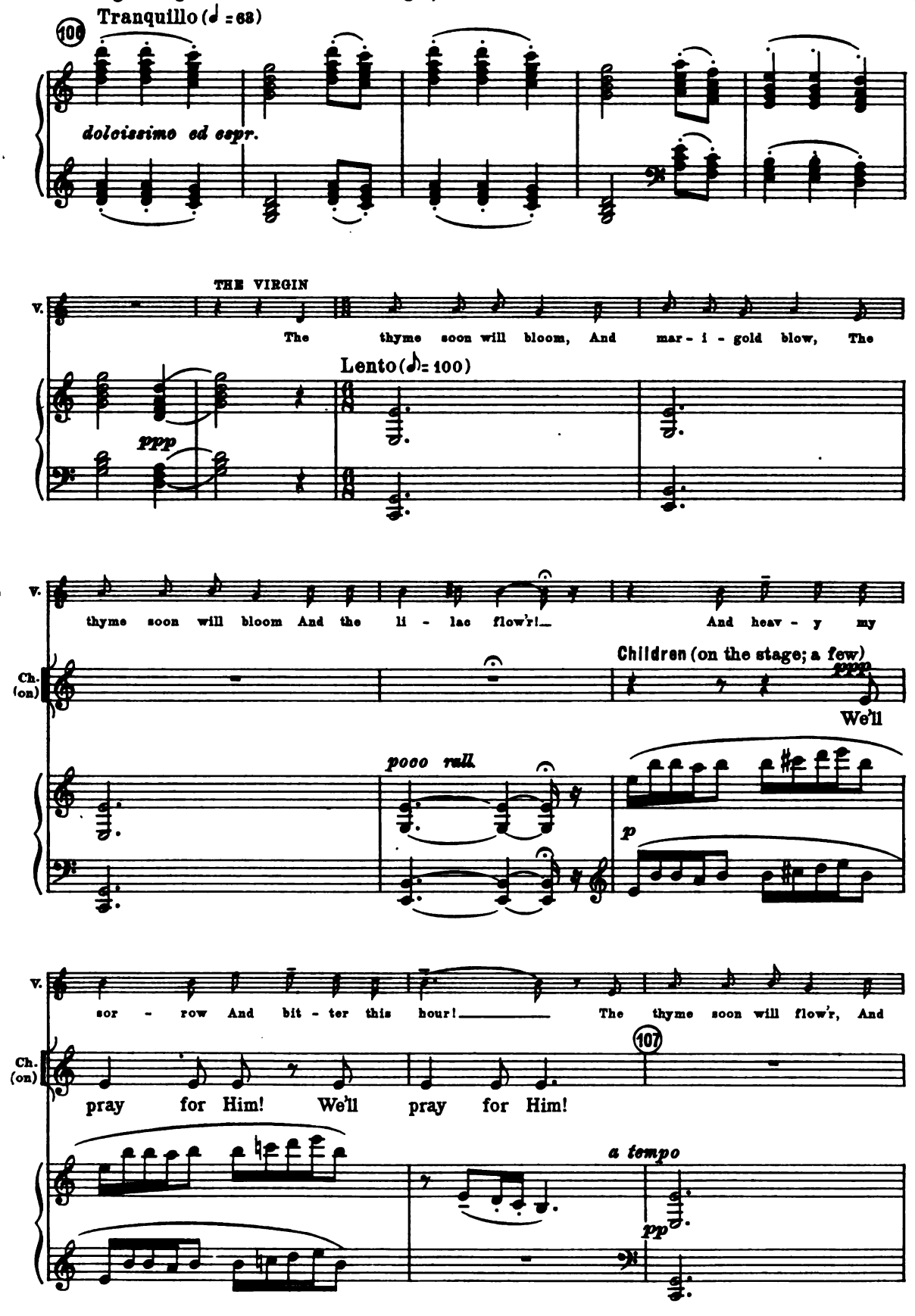
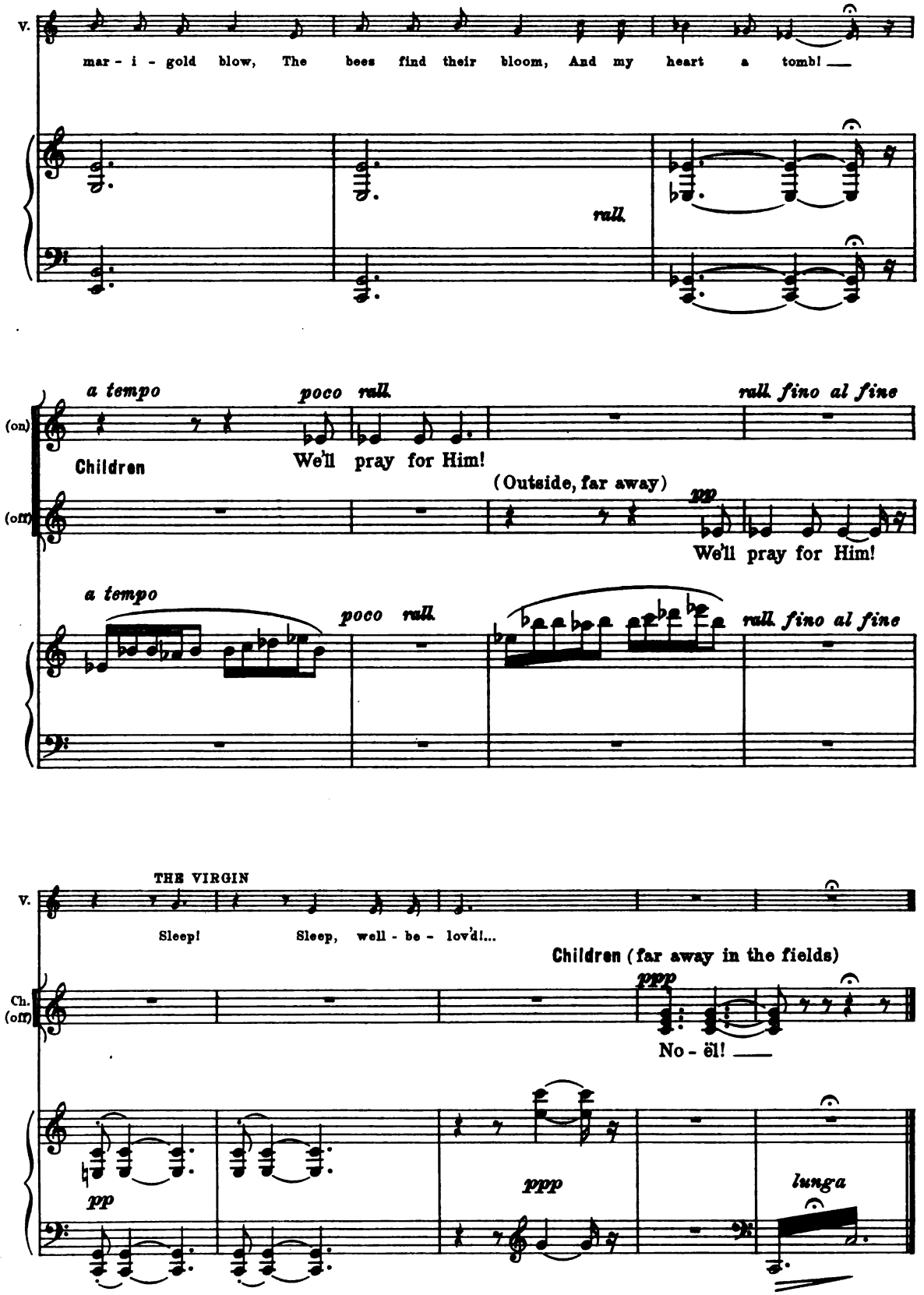
*)This passage in 3 parts may be sung as a unison on the first part, in which case the accompaniment is necessary

LUBIN
I have for Thee but a lov - ing heart, Sing - ing 'mid the win - ter,
Sing - ing as a lit - tle frog may, Hid in his warm, reed - y
pool!
95
Children (stroking the Ox and Ass)
più sosten.
Ass and ox, re - ceive our ca-ress-es,
Ass and ox, re - ceive our ca-ress-es,
Ass and ox, re - ceive our ca-ress-es,
Ye who have watch'd o'er the Child!
Ye who have watch'd o'er the Child!
Ye who have watch'd o'er the Child!

Who with balm-y breath so mild Have comfort-ed His dis-tress - es!
Who with balm-y breath so mild Have comfort-ed His dis-tress - es!
Who with balm-y breath so mild Have comfort-ed His dis-tress - es!
THE ASS
96
Ye young things, your kind so - li - ci -
ta - tions To ten - der - ness move a rude heart!
For lov - ing word and ca - ress Fall rare - ly e - nough to our part.

A.
97
Children
dolce espr.
I car - ry to Je - sus, in hom - age true, A new gold - en
dolce espr.
loaf of our sweet white bread! I car - ry to Je - sus my whit - est
p
dim.
lamb, My ap-ples and milk, my homage to ren - - -
dim.
98
26
der!
(All the children rise)
un poco sost.
26


THE STAR
S.
The ox and ass shall keep Thee warm, Dear child new-born, dear Sav-iour
100
8
S.
Child,
Thou Je-sus, who in pit-y ho-ly
pp
Pray for us all! Pray for us all!
8
S.
Com-fort hast and care for the low - - ly.
8
Pray for us all! Pray for us all!
S.
pooo cresc.
Thou Je-sus, meek and lov-ing Mas-ter,
Who shalt lead the way to life e-
8


S.
ter - - nal.
Thou the be-tray'd! Thou the cru-ci-fied!
101
Pray for us all! Pray for us all!
S.
Smil - ing on us e'en tho' Thou weep.
Pray for us all! Pray for us all!
S.
Thou Je - sus, en - crown'd King of kings, 'neath thorns and blood-stains
THE VIRGIN
S. V.
of the cross!
By in - grat - i - tude nev-er
102
Pray for us all! Pray for us all!


V.
blind - ed, To the vi - sion your souls be true! And may His com - ing find you
CELESTIAL VOICE
V.
C.V.
faith - - ful! O God! O God! My
pp Children
Pray for us all! Pray for us all!
C. V.
God, why hast Thou for - sak - en me?
pp colla voce
THE VIRGIN
V.
Chil-dren, haste your re-turn, where home and moth-er wait you!
103
a tempo (calmo)
V.
May all in - no - cent joys, To my Je - sus un-known, With glad-ness fill your pure hearts!

V.
— God bless you, Chil - dren all!
Children (going)
pp
Lit - tle Christ - Child, — a - dieu! —
espr.
p
THE VIRGIN
V.
104
Allegretto moderato (♩ = 100)
Shep - herd youths, with
dolce
V.
fair hair glanc - ing, Hap - py hearts and feet a - danc - ing, O pray for Him! —
p
We'll
V.
— For your Friend, whose child - hood ten - der Has here on earth no de -
105
pray for Him! —

v.
fend - - er!
Then pray for Him in heav - en's
We'll pray for Him!
v.
name, And in the name of His moth - - er!
pp
We'll pray for Him!
(on)
(off)
p (off stage)
We'll pray for Him!

(The Virgin is again alone beside the manger, over which the Ox and the Ass have continued to breathe)



V.
mar - i - gold blow, The bees find their bloom, And my heart a tomb! —
rall.
a tempo
poco rall.
rall. fino al fine
(on)
Children
We'll pray for Him!
(off)
(Outside, far away)
pp
We'll pray for Him!
a tempo
poco rall.
rall. fino al fine
THE VIRGIN
V.
Sleep! Sleep, well - be - lov'd!...
Children (far away in the fields)
Ch. (off)
ppp
No - ël! —
pp
ppp
lunga